

Aug.
22nd
1959

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak,
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

We were delighted to receive your letter of July 31st which I am acknowledging for Dr. King, whom we do not expect in the office before September 1st.

We can, of course, understand the need for an ordained minister at Barrow and that you are somewhat handicapped without ordination. However, we are sure you will do the very best you can in Mr. Klerekoper's absence, and that with the aid which Mr. Ipalook can give you from time to time the work will suffer no setbacks while in your charge.

With very best wishes, I am
Cordially yours,

BH UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER ~~ON FURLough~~

Aug. 31, 1939.

Dr. Everett B. King,
Secretary, Sunday School Missions + Alaska.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

For a long time I have been trying to find out who succeeded Dr. John M. Somerndike after his death. Just now I was reading a periodical named, "Women and Missions" Vol. 16 for August 1939, and on page 168 I came across an article which brought light to what I wanted to know. The title was, "New Secretary in Board." After reading it I started to scribble off a few lines. As I have had no letters from the staff or from Mr. Klerekoper our minister on furlough telling me who our Secretary was, I was eager to know who he was and on account of not knowing who I addressed my two letters to the Board of National Missions which I should have addressed to you direct, for this I am sorry. Just the other day I mailed a letter in which I spoke about "mission Boxes" addressing it to the Board of National Missions. Until just now I did not know who our newly appointed secretary was.

I shall try to

tell you a little of the work here after our Minister left for the States. But first may I ask you to excuse my poor English grammar. Never having been educated outside of the Barrow Public School I am very limited in my English language.

We were mighty glad to have seen Dr. [redacted] and his party this spring taking pictures. ~~I am sure~~ they have a little story and lots of pictures to tell about Barrow people. We certainly enjoyed the time we had with them.

[We missed our minister and his wife a lot when they left us. We have tried our best to carry on the work and we are not the least discouraged. I have enjoyed the work immensely,] One time in my letter to Mr. Kleekoper I told him that I would much rather interpret a sermon delivered by a minister rather than to try to build one and preach it. Well, the Lord knows the best effort on that line is offered and He has assured us in His word that He chose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty: and so on to the end of the 1st Chapter of I Cor. And with Paul the Apostle, we say that we preach Christ crucified, unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks. Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. So we do not look necessarily to our own wisdom but we yield ourselves to the "wisdom" which God offers. And since the Lord did use Moses' rod to His glory, we pray and trust that He may use us to

His glory.

The Church work have been going on very ~~well~~ and the people have cooperated very willingly. The activities of the church have not slacken any although we have missed and will miss our "Communion Services" for the year. But when the time comes we will not fail to remember it in spirit along with those who partake of it physically.

Just this week a spell of colds started in this village and as the nurses advised us against having Church Services we have had no services this week. There has been one death so far as a result of this cold. Just now it seems to be declining somewhat and we hope we can have our church services start again begining next Sunday.

If there is anything special you wish to know about the work here please write and I shall always be glad to answer if I can make myself understood.

May I ask for your prayers for us during the winter.

yours in His service
Roy Ahmaogak.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Sept. 1, 1939.

Dr. Everett B. King,
Secretary, P. D. of N. M.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

The following packages came by "S.S. Redwood" for this Mission. Will you please add to the list I sent you by the previous mail the following names. One package from Presby. Sunday School by Mildred Foxhoven, Supt. Panora, Iowa. Five packages from Presby. Church, Santa Paula, Calif. There was one case also but it did not have anything else on the surface other than the address for this mission so I could not tell you where it was sent from. There may be something inside but I have not begun to open the packages yet.

Ten cases of Borden's Milk and 6 cases of faint were also received. Will you be able to inform Rev. F. G. Klerkoper that the water tank for the manse did not show up and it was not on the manifest? The manifest for 10 cases of milk and 6 cases of faint checked out O. K.

Respectfully,

Roy Ahmaogak

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Oct. 31, 1939

Rev. Everett B. King D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rev. King:-

This is the first mail that is going out since the navigation closed. We have not had any mail from Outside since the last of August and to me this has seemed a long time. How I long to hear from Outside and I suppose I am not the only one that feels thus as there are several white in this village. The work here is going on very nicely and all the church activities are going on as usual. There was a week or two in August that we did not have Sunday Service on one Sunday and no midweek service that week and only one Service the following Sunday. It was due to severe attack of colds, most every one was coughing and sneezing. The nurses advised us against having church services so we had to close down until it got better. You will see it on the report when I mail them. I am sorry that I have not been able to mail any reports as yet. Having seen the instruction on the face of the report leaves toying to mail it to Presbyterian Chairman of National Missions I have not mailed them, not knowing who it was or is as I have had no letters from either Mr. Klerkoper or the Office and I shall hold them until I hear. I'm quite positive I shall

hear something on the mail next month.

At this time most of the men are out rounding deer. They are trying to have a count & the village is having difficulty in rounding up enough deer for marking and counting. Every body seems to think that the reindeer have all traveled back towards Wainwright. Some of the men have gone down there to help with the marking and counting deer. There had been some misunderstanding between the natives of Barrow and Wainwright in connection with the reindeer as the representatives had to be send to Wainwright along with the Unit manager, a white man, and Local Superintendent, also white man and the people elected me as one of the representatives and some other natives and we took a trip to Wainwright in a launch, were gone for four days and came back home alright. With good results we came back. I was with Percy Ipabook and whenever we had a chance we talked over our problems together in connection with the church work.

He expects to make his first trip in November by dog team. He was here last August but had to hurry back by the mail boat so he could not stay very long. During this summer there were a few times that I had the choir sang for the "Shut ins" and they all enjoyed it. If there is anything special about the work ^{here} you wish to know let me know and I shall try to let you know. Hoping to hear as often as possible as to advise or suggestions about the work I shall with pleasure await your letter.

Sincerely yours
Troy Ahmaoagak

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER ON FURLough

Dec. 29, 1939.

Detailed Narrative, Report of the work:

Since the reports have not been sent to your Office, monthly I have taken the liberty of sending this one instead of what each monthly report sheets require and I hope it may not be contrary to your approval. You will notice that on the column where it says, Work there are somethings written which I have scuffed off which I thought should be reported. Anything outside of the regular routine of the Church Services is what I have tried to put on that column.

June 15th to July 14.

In the early part of June the church was scrubbed. This was done just before Mr. & Mrs. Klerekoper left for the States and it was they who had it done and I acted as foreman. I plan to have the church building scrubbed and painted inside this coming spring unless otherwise instructed.

These leaflets or periodicals on column no. 11 are given out every Sunday School to the pupils. They are four different kinds. "Forwards" are given out to the upper grades "Girls Garden" and "Boys Pioneers" for the girls and boys who can read them and the "lesson cards" are given to the small children who have not yet learn to read and when there are any left over they are given to the old people who can not read. These are valuable to the old people but we really never have enough of them to suffice the old people as we try to supply the children first.

This is the month when many families go out from the village to their hunting camps, either down the coast or up the coast and they do not return until sometimes in

latter part of August. It was at this time the Session Meeting to discuss the subject of dismiss class. So many had gone with their parents there were only 4 or 5 attending at the close have it cancelled for time being until more to the village.

These meetings of the Deacons and Deaconess to dispense the supplies offered monthly by the members which I am sorry to report are not to last for the full month as most of the gave are hard pressed themselves and yet are give what they can to help those who are in

July 15 to August 14

During this month I had the choir of our church sing for the "Shutins" on one occasion and had the elders pray with them and read portion of scripture to each of them for which they were thankful! Percy D. Falck also came from Stainwright and helped with our service here. He came by mail boat and returned to Stainwright by the same boat. He preached three sermons while he was here.

During the latter part of this month in one of our Session Meetings seven of our suspended members who were suspended while Rev. Kleukoper was here expressed repentance and desire, to once more be in full fellowship of the church and its privileges. The Session prayed with them and encouraged them as to their Christian duty and told them that we could not reinstate them officially until the return of our ordained Minister and told them that if they proved worthy until the arrival of our ordained Minister we would recommend them to him for reinstatement.

It was also during this season that an epidemic of colds effected this village for which the Government nurses advised us against associating in groups. The church services were discontinued for a week and one service only on second Sunday during the colds. As a result of this there was one death in the village. However the worship on the Sabbath day was encouraged in the individual houses.

Trustees' Meeting was had to discuss the problem of collecting dolls and miniature Native articles such as kayaks and omiaks and etc. for tithing and made to ship out same on the next mail.

August 15 to September 14.

Nothing much was done outside of our regular activities at this time. Our choir on one Sunday went to sing for the "Shutins" by this we mean those who are not able to attend church services due to ill health ^{Parte which really} tubercular cases, lame and blind cases. ^{should be here are two} ^{The above: do not}

September 15 to October 14.

During the latter part of Sept. and part of October we were busy getting ready to round up deer for marking and counting deer which means they will be out of village a month or more. October first was held in fellowship with the "World wide Communion" program although no actual communion was had, Scripture appropriate for that occasion was the topic of the day. Offering was taken and although times are hard and money is always hard to get yet the collection amounted to 4.⁷⁵ which I thought was a good collection at this time according to the conditions at present. Here, the local wages if there is any work to be done is not paid in cash but in trade which makes it hard to get cash. In such a condition this offering is taken.

You will notice on the report sheet that we had three session meetings at this period. Knowing that our quorum might be lacking I wanted to have things fairly well tended to before some of our elders leave the village for rounding deer. Again our choir went to sing for the "Shutins".

October 15 to Nov. 14.

Due to the men away from the village very little was done outside of our regular church routine. No session meeting were had due to lack of quorum.

November 15 to December 14th.

I shall state here also parts of which should be in the latter part of December. In November Percy I palook came from

-4-

Hainwright and we had dinner meeting a
fellow about our church, Mr. Wm. L.
A. took place, Hainwright and Barron, ex-
members here who have moved to Hainwright.

Thanks giving service was had on the 23rd
in the regular way and although this year
rather a lean year for Barron since no
bed and no whale and reindeer diminishing
last four or five years, fast was had in the
church were some left over from the fast to a
all the "blutins" for that day. Sunday
giving choir sang for the blutins which is also

The usual lesson meetings were had and
met.

During the last week of November
first week of December all the Christians gathered
everyone, man, woman, child and baby were there.
Thanks again for the several churches who sup-
plied these Christmas gifts. If these people
could only see the people welcome the gifts and especially
the children it would give the givers hearts a great
more joy than they ordinarily get just by passing
mailing their package to us.

Two weeks before Christmas I had prepared a religious
program for our church, something like we usually have
and had translated into Eskimo language the parts to be
spoken and had choristers selected and practicing,
such as wise men, shepherds, Mary and Joseph and had
the choir prepare some songs. I was so anxious, as
well as those taking part to get this thing through in
good style I laid awake at nights sometimes thinking
about it, especially after our first practice I was where
I could improve it. What a shock it was to all of us
who were interested to find on Monday, the 18th that week
broke out in couple of houses which caused the whole
village to scatter right away and all social gatherings
prohibited and as a result church twice had to be closed
and the school was also closed. So no Christmas celebration
was had as we ordinarily have it. It was rather a sad

different to the young people and the old
they get their Christmas presents. On the
I had my son haul the presents to every home
It took three sled loads and for the same
young people and children we had him dress
them suit.

To date ourselves are still at work in four hours
no deals so far.

Respectfully yours in "the" business
Roy Abenayah
In charge of the Boys

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
AT
BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER ON FURLough

Dec. 20

Miss Blanche Hopp,
Unit of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp:-

Your letter of Aug. 22nd received no
was indeed a pleasure to hear from your of
I am mailing my reports of the work
out going mail which will be leaving here in
January. Thinking that it might be little to
reaching your Office I am writing you this let
report to you the present situation in this village.
No doubt you have already heard that this village
quarantined due to measles and since no conq
is allowed, both the school and our church service
are closed. The first case of measles in the village
broke out the 18th of this month, just a week before Ch
and for nearly two weeks it was confined to only four
homes, but since yesterday it is reported that it is
in another 6 homes. I believe it will continue now
some time and I do not know when we will be all
to start our church services again. I was preparing
a program in our church for Christmas entertainment
we had already started to practice when all of a sudden
this sickness broke out and everything had to be closed.
Other than this sickness our work has been going along
very nicely this winter. All the church activities

being carried out by Mr. & Mrs. Blenkopf very smoothly and satisfactorily until got in the way. I am quite sure all young people and especially the children want Christmas celebrations but they were coming to them anyway, only in a diff. had all the presents that were coming from to every body, sleded with my dog team by Roy Jr. I had him put Santa's suit on & were very much delighted to see Santa C through the village to each home.

It is going to be hard on some people get sick with the measles since the people are not cared for in the hospital. The people in their houses and since the fuel is a big for every body, some houses have to go without their houses at times, and the sick have to cold which is a thing that should be avoided sickness or measles. I am sure Mr. & Mrs. Blenkopf tell you about this situation better than I can if you know more about it.

Many people are also barely enough to eat to get along each day. Living mainly by hand by seal hunting, is not so good at times. Several ask me for something to eat for their families and I am forced by necessity to share a little here and there with them. I suppose I'm not the only one people come asking for help. Some people does offer to sell or exchange a seal for some white man's grub and I have to take offer sometimes when I don't really need it. All this of course is Mr. Blenkopf's experience and he readily understands place I am in. Well, there are lots of problems to think and talk about but one does not take time to write it out in detail. "The Lord in "Him" we have believed," we also believe that the short bright days shall neither sleep nor sleep" So we take our problems to Him by prayer with faith. Wishing you a very "Happy New Year", I remain,

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Narrative of the work Dec. 15, Jan 16

As you have already known the conditions of the
during this month our last church services were held
on the 17th of December. Two days after the measles
broke out in the village. This meant that the
had to be quarantined and meant also that each
be confined to themselves. It also meant that the
preparation we undertook for our Christmas entertainments
had to be stopped. It was somewhat shocking to
of our young people that it came just when it
it was something that could not be helped.
this month, towards the end of it, practically half
village were down with measles, including some who
in traps away from the village. Several of the men
in the village were suffering from lack of fuel for
and stove and also lack of food. Owing to the short
and hunting conditions unfavorable and also because of
illness this really was the hardest part of the winter for
the natives. It was during January that one of our
ruling elders, Meldon Momogana by name, Percy Igolook's
uncle was drifted away on a piece of ice. He had gone
out to the open lead hunting seals and as the wind got
stronger blowing off shore, the ice broke away from the
shore ice and drifted away with him. The drifting of the
man was not known to the village until the next day
which meant that it was too late for a search to be
made with a skin boat, moreover also being such a long
distance - one mile in search for him. but time took
a month.

During the quarantine people were advised to hold

their prayer meetings in their homes to who very willingly. The monotonous cause measles was somewhat overbearing but we it patiently. We had daily knockings outer to which we responded every time and many the day. Some people were asking for some food from us and others. They were the ones did the knocking from home to home. This of course was not done by every body but by a certain very people could not do the same and the fact but they remain there - poor things and suffer. With such people most anybody is sympathetic and is ready to offer help when opportunity comes.

During the month from Jan. 15 to Feb. 14 condition of things are about the same and we under quarantine. Toward the end of the month the measles start declining. On or about the 15th of February we were told that within a week Dr. the Quarantine would be lifted unless a few more cases develop. At the close of this month one family was having the measles. There were deaths during this time.

From Feb. 15 to Mar. 14 things begin to get no and signs of better conditions are noticeable. The has finally disappeared and hunting condition is much better. People are getting well and more and more able to work. Fish and also some game caught. The 17th of February was our first day of worship together in the house of God and the thought for the day centered around verses 1, 2, 6, 10, 11 of the 84th Psalm. morning and evening service were conducted and a funeral service in between for three copies, two infants and one adult. The two infants death resulted from measles but the other one was one that had been sick a long time. During his illness and at the close of his life he showed a very fine Christian spirit and his life ended in this world with this remark; Let us all be patient, no one is the Lord's and He will repay, let us rather suffer wrong done us. I am going home and in a little while I will be seeing my loved ones especially my grandsons." I think

This was a marvelous work for me -
neither read nor wrote. The difficulty
he had believed. I think he was the first
man buried in the church.

During this month we had three other
services. These deaths were mostly children
one who was a young man. They probably
aftermath of measles. One of these children
my grandson, a three year old boy. He had
been sick a long time, in fact he was expected to
die August and was sick ever since and finally
the 11th of March. He said some very foolish
foolish things before he died. One time he
wondered if I will ever get well on this earth, &
not, but I know Jesus in heaven will make me
just before he died he pointed to the window
asked his dad if he saw angels of people to
go to heaven, insisted they were there in plain sight
his father could not see them. Such a
poor three year old child is a wonder to us.
Help us to feel and know that there is real
in our faith in God and His Son. I believe
Providential that Percy D. Falbok came from Stainwright
just the time he did and conducted the funeral service.
I prayed much but felt that I would not be able
to conduct the funeral service as it should be done
without experiencing emotion and grief. The boy was
dear to me and I was dear to him. In fact, he always
called me dad and call his own dad by name. At
one time he told his mother to know that as he had
always loved me. With these things in my
mind it was a difficult thing for me to have tried
to conduct the funeral service. I had tried to send
a message by radio telephone to Percy at Stainwright
for him to come at his earliest convenience but the wireless
operator had not read the message as Stainwright was
having difficulty with their reception equipment. It was
unexpected when the phone arrived that Percy came on
that alone and most gladly conducted the funeral service.

Surely God is our refuge and strength a very
help in trouble.

The young man I referred to who is known to some people in the State. He is Woodrow French. He had been an invalid two years. He had been under care of Dr. for a treatment of some ailment and, probably recovered and finally released to him Rev. F. G. Klerckoper and his wife took care of when they were here and after their leave what I could to help him although I was to do as much as Klerckopers did. During of the months the boy who was doing above got sick with measles and when he got well got the measles but did not last long after from another. Several times during this and during this winter the choir and myself sang and sing hymns for him. I frequently called him and had prayers with him and enjoyed talking with him about our "benevolent Father" and the love of his love to us through his son our Saviour. Some times he told me he felt lonely and discouraged our talks and prayers together always resulted in joy and peace. Four other faithful Christians called on him and prayed with him. His testimony and peaceful ending indicated he also knew in whom he had believed. Just before he died he asked those about him to repeat the full prayer with him and after the close of it he passed away.

One of our men was arrested for stealing. This is the first arrest made other than insanity in many years. He is a young man, known to every one as a sort of a bad influence to the younger boys and boys of his age. On several occasions he was dealt with by the Session during Rev. Clarkper's time, but with very little results. I had previously dealt with him during this winter and evidently what I said to him made very little impression on him. Any way he was arrested

after that. Soon after he was visited he started to do some sailing. He sent for and see him. I properly did not expect the next day he sent word again for me to see him and invited what I like him to do a little longer, said he would wait till I requested more or less. I wanted to go

although I wanted very much to give him third chance to call for me. That we went to see him and when I went in I did anything. I waited for him to say something he said to me, I never realized that I like dinner until now and for this reason I like for you that I may talk with you and, the Lord from you. Then I answered him, I look you sent yourself a dinner, no one wanting. Then I asked him this question you rather get tired of waiting for me, and he did and I said to him. What a dinner, it, thinking it might give you more time to think about your self and God and also asked him, long do you think you make the Lord waited for you who ready for him, ready to receive him. He rolled down his eyes at this remark. He was fine. He had very intelligent talk, free talk, and such Scripture as L. 53. and 2. 55:1. J. 1: 16, 19, Mat 4:20. Then I prayed for him and asked him to pray and he did willingly and after few more talks I felt we did not spend the night in vain. It was after 2 A.M. that night when I was ready to go to bed. After that I had more talk with him by way of encouragement. One prayer meeting night he would be object of people's eyes. I believe the power of God! the spirit is working in him and he has left this life knowing that he is remembered in prayers. Many of us are convinced he is on his way to recovery. I gave him some Tracts and other reading material which I thought would help him and he was happy to get

them!

The children are now enjoying our Bible Class again. Along with the catechism having them learn by memory such like as the 23rd Psalm, Beatitudes and several other short Psalms and also Temperance like those found in a book called "The last bottom section.

I would like to say here if I may, that at your home or sister home with I have very much and to me the you have done one. May we ask for your prayers that the guidance may be with.

yours in the service

Roy Chonoyak

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER ON LEAVE

Feb. 29, 1940.

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:-

The Christmas card you sent to me appreciated and it was rather a surprise along that it got here so quick. I received it in which I believe was a quick time. Since our mail in the States is usually three or four months on the air, I was surprised to get this message in about a month. This air mail surely does travel in quick time, faster than most of the mail being carried by dog team from Kotzebue North till it reaches us.

Our church activities were not allowed to start until the 18th of this month, the members as you know. The first Sunday after the quarantine was lifted, it was a rather a busy day for me but I enjoyed it very much just the same because of being able to meet together once more and the people to worship God. At that time between the morning and the evening services there was a funeral service held for two babies and one adult. These two babies were the only deaths reported from the members. You can imagine the people expressed their thankfulness to God by prayer for the precious care during the time of sickness. The whites here marvelled that this disease didn't kill off the people as it did at other places farther South but Christians give the glory to God because that always

gracious care that the people pulled thru
the loss of two infants. This is here the
are off. Even for babies get the measles
birth here they do not look after dog a
until 5 months old.

This winter has been the hardest year
people have at other times. So many of the
their entire teams which is their only means
during the winter. You can tell by that,
themselves suffer hunger at times. This
year, conditions like this never occurred I
remember. Hunting has been very poor
only means of living most natives depend on
of them could not keep their families supply
catch in hunting. During this week there
has passed us land the people are in better
they have been for sometime. Most of the men
put in their time hunting with one's sympathy
know some of them stay out on the ice nights
day trying their best to kill a seal to take home
families. I have known several of them stay out
as long as three or four days and nights exposing
to cold and danger of being carried away by the ice
in the result of off shore wind and the ice break
away from the shore ice one of our elders, Meldon no
megana by name, Percy Ipalook's uncle was carried
away by the ice early part of January and he has not
showed up since. One other man who was drifting
away on a piece of ice was rescued by some men
in a skin boat after hearing his S.O.S. signal by the
off few of his ammunition. Just the other day one
man broke through the young ice and could not get
himself out of the water until another hunter heard him
call for help and pulled him out of the water.
Some of the families may find the village

of her was reported of being saved
startling by pulling a trigger of a gun.
On another occasion inland a man and
out towards the coast from their camp a
big team by starvation had realized they
it to the next camp started back. One has
say might of been froze to death if a man
team had not happen to come that way
this little girl to the nearest camp.

The long story short this year has been
one. From now on though, the weather
improve since the days are longer and
becoming warmer. Hunting will start
two months and the ducks will be com-
about that time or little after. Anyways
live or should live by faith and not by
and we consent to the scriptural quotations,
that the trial of your faith worketh patience,
believe the good Lord sees it all and under-
infinite more than we can understand and
know that "All things work together for good"
that love God, to them who are called according
this purpose and we comfort our hearts by the
words such as Paul quotes by saying, "For I know
that the sufferings of this present time have not
to be compared with the glory which shall be re-
vealed in us. Yea, if we only stay faithful to him. May
your prayers be for us." Of course, this is not a
about the work that I am telling you about, but for
like these burn down on ones soul and I feel a
you're interested in physical need as well as spirit
need. If there is anything special that you wish
to know in connection with the community wells
I would be glad if you would ask me questions.

Yours in the service
Tom Brewster

Feb.
29th
1940

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak,
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 30th, which is being held for Dr. King's attention upon his return to the office in April.

We trust the epidemic of measles will soon be over and that you will be able to resume your church services. Everyone here is very much pleased with the way you have been carrying on the work in Mr. Klerekoper's absence. However, I am sure you will be glad to have him back with you again.

I am
Praying the Lord's blessing upon you,

Very sincerely yours,

BH UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
AT
BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

March

Dr. Everett B. King,
Board of Natl. Missions,
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:-

Your letter of Dec. 19th, just received, appreciated. Your reference to Mr. ^{of the church} going out to attend Iulugaq University was a for sometime. In fact Mr. Spalding had told that he was planning to do so. You may be that I have enjoyed the work here this winter in very much pleased and willing to give my services to the Fairbanks church during his absence. My only regret is that I am not as capable for the as our ordained minister or Deacon himself. Let you be assured that the best of my knowledge and ability is given from the heart with dependence on the Holy Spirit for guidance. Asking you for your prayers remain,

Respectfully yours
Frederick G. Klerekoper

Coolville river
Mar 16, 1940.

The Roy Anaoagak
My dear friend -

I am writing another letter to you by David Otoayuk. It is a beautifull day today. My family are all well and they still happy. Elizabeth had been sick but she get better again.

She got sick while I was up the coast. The last time I went up to Beechey Point with two dogs; I walk to much and my knee is swollen up and I can not walk back home and Mrs Lucy Smith took me over to Abraham Stands place and from there I hired a boy to take me home I can not walk for long time and now I walk little. I have to stop every place to preach to them and when I got to Zack I stay with him and let the people there come to his house and I preach to them and Zack himself had listen too.

I found out that many young people are careless and some of them never had sunday. See you below where from they learn some of them from their parents or from other people who had been christians people. Look at that old man Aksiatuk, he wanted to be good christian man but he saw others like Wilbur or Jessie and some others don't keep sunday and he just follow them and he think that they doing good. That why he work or hunt on sunday, but not know though, just by following Wilbur he said. I went up to them once by walk with one little dog but that dog don't help me any, my boy Roy hauling our little sled along.

When I got there, I preach to them good and they come to me very close to listen and we pray together and I never saw the old people interested to listen close like they had listen and after we had pray. They are very happy to know the way how to be save and they had been thanks to what they listen and they said many time they wanted to be save. You know how the felons feel when they had been convicted.

Also at Christmas time, while the people were gather together quite many young people or old people had been convicted and made confess and they wanted to be pray for and we pray together. And they feel happy after that.

I hope some others more like them. The last ^{time} I went up Jack Smith told me about the people and I told him that I wish to have all the people get together in the summer and he wanted me to have them come to his place and he will try help me little or grub and I thank him. I did not travel much this winter because had time and have no dogs too and I will do better next time, if the Lord is will. I am very sorry for those people one who once had been good Christians people and just bad examples to other people.

Even some people close enough come to church they did not come to church. Those are close to me of Paocana, Eriblock, Toshli and I my oalrah. Some other children comes and why they don't come themselves. We are not teaching our children right if we don't come to church. Eriblock and all his families comes. We must pray for those kind people. I can not walk long distance yet.

We do little looking tiddlks after we road away from Paosana's place. We put three fish nets and we start to catch fast and fish.

Perry ad Isaac went deer hunting and they killed five caribou and they start again to hunt some more.

These are some caribou at I kahlekpik. My children had hardest time on their lives.

Sometimes my boy have to looking tiddlks all night and when they can not catch many for their brother for morning. Perry have to go to our nets to look them and came home just in

time to get up in the morning. He doing that different time. My son had work hard than ever before. Perry and Isaac don't care for sleep when their brothers have nothing to eat, but

we had little to eat every morning. God gave what he want, didn't they ask him faithfully. We are thanking him.

Most our dogs died by starvation and we saved only three dogs. We don't care as much for them when we did not enough for ourselves. The man can not hunt when there is nothing to hunt for.

You know me how I used to hunt but there is nothing here this winter. My sons can not

go down this spring to our boat in account they want sealing this spring and try to get the meat away for next year. Probably they will go down with Jacob's sled. We will have some dogs to travel with next winter. I had been fool by Paosana.

He use to tell me that he had very good place, nothing to be go hungry, all the lakes that fish he said & but that are not. He has worse place than anyone

We did not stay together long. You know sometimes
the fellow can not stay together. I found out what
kind man he is to other people. While we stay at
their house, when I go away. He get after my kids
and rough talk to them and my wife can not
bear it long and we made a sand-house and
one time he told me that we should to go sleep
without supper and my wife don't want to have
her children go to sleep without supper, while
we have nets. I tell you truth. but lots more to
tell but no use to talk. I think you know him
once. Akoflak and his family stay with them
this winter and now they went back to Kagoobetay.
Some times Eriklook and Ihyoalorak come down about
their fopshins what they sold to him and they don't know
how much they get for. He just took the skins and did not
put the pieces on and gave little stuff and they worry about
them by they had been cheat or not and we came to him
about that and he tried to tell me ^{that} he rather to be cheat
himself and I told him how can you be cheat when you
just take the skins for little stuff and send the skins out
and sell them for money and who own those money and
you belong them and then if the skins sell more
than you give to them, you cheat them and they
made agreement to see when David came back with
the book and they havent to do it yet.

There is another one about Horner and Wilbur trust
to their father. Horner let Vincent got some little stuff
from Native store from his father stock store and when
Koongoyuk find out, he did not please with it and he told
me that sons havn't right to take any without letting
know first and Horner got away with under wear
what the old man belong without let him know.
I havent seen Horner yett he is up the mountains
now with Muptigak.

Women open and read the letter to Mack O-lak from Foster Parigash before the letter get to Mack.
 Wilbur went up to Jack Smith and he got some tobacco from Jack on Koongoyuk's name that he told Jack the old man want some tobacco and when he got home, Wilbur use that tobacco without let old man know. Jack told me about that and I think Daniel told him I think Koongoyuk told me Daniel help him more than other boys. I am very glad to be here with these kind people and I want to make the crooked trail straight and I have seen more wayward children even grown ones. You elders have to pray for me much for the Lord be with us with our work for him, when we work faithfully to him.

I wish to have more gasoline so when my boat comes, I had to go up the coast to see those people there this summer. I hope the board will give me more. The people here are not together and I have to travel to see them.

Then border wrote to me about those young people east and ^{the} commit adultery to each others. I should have a small boat like seal boat 20 foot at two men can handle and three horse power engine in her, so it will be easier to travel up the river and coast, but no money to pay with.

I havent receive any letters yet from outside and don't know how much I get. As soon as I know from them, I should like to make the statement for what I get from the store.

I will expect to receive the letter from you
I think that long enough for now.

Remember me to all my friends.

I send my best wishes to you all.

Give my love to Lou & nice Isabel, she remember
you all the time.

Yours friend

Andrew Chortchuk

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

April 6, 19

Rev. Boyd S. Cabbage,
Stated Clerk, Yukon Presbytery,
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Rev. Cabbage:-

Your letter dated March 21 reached me in the mail. I have already mailed my reports for by air mail that left here the 18th by airplane and I am rather taking a chance with this one as it being mailed in the Post Office because there is going out at this time. It is being sent by you expecting it to be mailed either at Kotzebue or Nome.

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Skotheim which I thought might serve the purpose of furnishing you a report from him. It reached me after the mails had left. From what I can get out of the letter he had quite a tuff time of it this winter. In fact it was reported that every body up that way were hardly getting enough to eat to get along satisfactorily just as the people did here during the short days. But since the days are getting longer and the weather turning warmer and game increasing the condition for living is improving now and will be much frige up next year, maybe.

I was wondering why I was not getting any answer from Rev. McAllister early this winter but your letter mostly solved it.

May I call your attention to the fact that I am not an

ordained minister and therefore does not
being addressed as Reverend. I am only an
is taking charge of the work here during Rev.
Borchard's furlough. And you will please note
the errors you see in my English grammar.
an advantage of going Out side to school and have
my education only from this local school which
very limited in my English language.

As the plane is liable to be here any minute I
closing this letter with affectionate Greetings to you

Yours truly,
Roy Amoryal.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
AT
BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

ALASKA

April 9, 1941

Miss Blanche Hopp,
Unit of Alaska Work,
156 - 5th Ave. New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp:-

your letter dated Feb. 29th received this m^o
was very much appreciated. It's quite certain that by
have heard that we have resumed our church work of
which we praise the "Lord". We are still to
have our Minister back with us again and work with
his wife. However, I want to let you know that all
this has been rather an unusual winter, due to such
longer on the part of most people, I have greatly enjoyed
work that I have been doing. These hard times help to
me forget all dependence and cause one's faith to look up
constantly to God for dependence on Him. And what could it
possibly be without these trials. We know, that naturally,
he would forget his God and would feel independent of Him.
In other words, these so called hard times awaken in our soul
and inner self, something that nothing else can wake or rouse.
Life would be incomplete without them. I hope you will not
think that I am trying to preach. This came to me in my
thought for this morning and I just simply put it on. This
letter gave me an encouragement and in reading it those thoughts
came to my mind. I thank and praise God that you are
pleased with the work that I am trying to do and I pray that
"He" first of all may be blessed with it and keep me humble that
"He" may have all the glory.

Things are back to normal now and no one is suffering
as much as this winter. Some one sighted a whale and

The whaling crew are making preparations for
I think if Mr. & Mrs. Blackfriars hear about it
will get someone for Boarding. I hope they will
In my letter to Dr. King I have reported a
received from different Indians & told such
especially those who are my only in our
all plan go that information from him if we
will but make up their minds to go

Respectfully yours,
Roy Amasok

April 9, 1940

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Presbyterian Mission
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

Thank you for your interesting letter of February 23th.

I have just returned from a trip through Alaska, going as far North as Fairbanks. I am so sorry that it was impossible for me to complete my journey and to see you in Barrow. The weather was not favorable, and I could not make the extended trip. Some time in the future my hopes are that I shall be able to see the sights and to meet the people whom you are serving.

I am deeply interested and concerned about the physical needs and welfare of your people, and I appreciated the description that you gave of the conditions. I rejoice in my heart over your strong steady faith. I am sure the great and good Lord will provide. The old Psalmist sang his song, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." That is a great song for any soul to be able to sing.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

Presbyterian Mission, Barrow, Alas

Narrative of the work

Mar. 15 to April 14, 1940.

On account of no mail going out since the first of our reports have accumulated.

Several of the men and their families are out during the latter part of March and first part of April, due to trapping season about to expire. However we managed to have session meetings and tended to some unfinished business last month and very often there are new business that to be brought up by the session which need attention.

During this month in one of our afternoon services I had, as every one else in the audience a privilege of hearing a testimony from a young man for which I thank and praise God. His testimony was as follows: In our morning service every thing seemed to have pointed me out as if I were alone. The prayer that was offered on that morning service, the songs that were sung, the sermon that was preached all seemed to point at me and I was under conviction. I felt the call of God and I have accepted the Saviour, knowing and realizing that no sin is too great for him to take away. I had tried to

live a life of a Christian but seemed to have made
of it, but now I realize my faith in Him was not
what I was living — carnal Christian; From now on I
will live as a spirit filled Christian and ask you to
pray for me. On another similar testimony
was given by another young man and he expressed his desire to
have closer fellowship with God. Said that he had been in
conviction for some time but seemed to have been held down
by the devil, trying to discourage him from getting up and
his testimony. Now that he was freed by God's power from
the influence of the evil one he also asked the help of God
in his prayer to God. When souls are stirred like this
they are never neglected and should not be neglected.
My best of knowledge, although limited, and encouragement, my
personal experience and especially the word of God is used to
encourage them in God's way of living to possess His grace
and gifts of soul.

During this month a young girl about the age of 13 or 14 died
away from the village, at a fishing camp. She was away
with her parents during the time of measles. She was a
very bright girl and had learned her Bible by memorizing

Sheet no. 3.

the children's catechism. Then the body was broug^t
the village I made a call to her parents. Read
to them and had prayers, comforting them with the
from the scripture. The father of the child told me
the child had seemed to be well a good while before
got worse and when the father thought that she was about
diseased for the life he asked her if she might not say
a word to him that he should remember after she leav^e
them and in a clear voice, able to be heard plainly by
who were there, she said take good care of my Bible and
catechism booklet. I have eaten that which is the Lord
strive to eat of it, all of you. Those were her last words
the father told me and said that he thought he was trying
his best to be a good christain but some way her words
had inspired him there was room for amendment in
christian privilage. Then I told the parents that these
words of hers remind us of the first two verses of the 55th
of Isaiah.

Held our Easter Service on
Easter Sunday. The choir had spent some time in practicing
some Easter hymns previous to Easter Sunday and our efforts
were rewarded by hearing some command on the behalf of

the choir. We had some whites in our service
of whom were very kind in decorating our platform
flowers for which we were thankful. Collection was
and the amount of offering was surprising, amount
seventeen dollars and eighty nine cents, for this we give
the Lord. During this month the most
needy of the church were remembered and contribution was
had of food and fuel which the deacons distributed
them.

April 29, 1940

Air Mail

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

Thank you for your detailed narrative that I received today. It gave me a very interesting picture of the splendid work that you are carrying on in the absence of the minister, Rev. Mr. Fred Klerekoper. I was deeply impressed with the way that you are ministering to the shut-ins with your choir and devotional services. That certainly is a well planned and worth-while piece of service. It must have brought cheer and comfort and courage to the hearts of the people that you visited.

In case that plans materialize for Mr. Percy Ipalook to spend a year in the States concluding his education, would it be possible for you to serve his church during his absence? If so, could you carry on under the same agreement financially as you are now serving at Barrow?

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

Narrative, continued.

April 15 - May 14, 1940.

Snow - & every sort of the much work of the traps are back to village. The men now with no traps to work are spending their time hunting seals. Some of them on the ice day and night. Good many seals are being daily for food. Preparation for whaling was bad and the are out whaling. Like any other hunting the whaling is a - a gamble or guess work so one knows whether any will be killed or not. The members of our church were encouraged to pray to the Lord for this blessing on our hunting crews. All in all there are ten crews now out whaling and practically all men are out here on the ice.

During this time all the regular routine of the church is being carried on as usual.

There was one death a child, for which we held funeral service. Our monthly contribution to the many families was had which distributed by the deacons as usual.

Our choir visited some of the "shutins" and sang for them. This is usually done on Sunday afternoons between two-thirty and four. As the time is limited, in order to be back for the afternoon service we very seldom complete the number of songs but they are continued on in our next visits. The Eskimos singing for are not able to understand what the words of the songs are I always translate the words into eskimo for them. The "shutins" always express their appreciations of these visits very touchingly. It gives us joy to be able to do what we can to brighten their souls even for a short while. Quite a few times they themselves ask us to come and sing for them if for some reason, like unfavorable weather or other things making our attention take our time away from them for some time.

The whales are being sighted but no whales killed, few are wounded but not killed. There is a wide lead of open water and very little chance of getting whales, it seems.

May 7, 1940

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Presbyterian Mission
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

I am very happy to know that you can and will supply for Percy Ipalook during his absence while he is in attendance at Dubuque University. You do the very best that you know how, and the good Lord will take care of the rest. He will not hold you responsible for something that you do not possess, and no man has any right to hold you responsible, so just give what you have in the service of Christ, and Christ will bless it.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

Narrative from
May 15 to June 14, 1940

The whaling is still on and only one dead whale was
was one of the wounded whales which evidently died ~~and~~
Chance of getting any more whales is now almost past.
of June is usually the time the whales have past this
going North. Many of the crews are bringing home load after
of ogroks (bearded seals). It takes about 6 or 7 of these to
to make a boat load. There must have been about 60 or
of these ogroks killed by the whaling crews which means a
help to this village.

Nothing outstanding has happened in connection with our church work. The regular work has been carried on as usual.
to the muddy has been a little less than ordinary, due to better success in hunting.

Our choir has made only one call this month. Most of the men are ~~all~~ out camping on the ice and the choir feel they are complete without male voices so we have made only one call.

Our topics, though for May were according to the church book for 1940. Especially the "Ascension Day," "Mother's Day," "Memorial Sunday" and "Children's Day" were remembered. As I was lacking in material for these special occasions I was glad to find some thoughts for each of these occasions from the old copies of the "Emissary" which were a big help to me.

June 15 to July 14, 1940.

This month finds the men still on the ice hunting, not whale now but groks and walrus. The celebration was had for the one whale killed. There was a festival, a day of Nalukataq when boys and girls, young men and young women are tossed up in the air in a skin as no doubt seen by many of the people "Outside" in pictures taken by Dr. Thorne and others on their trip here last year. A good feed of whale muktuk (whale's black skin) is had on this day along with food of all sorts such as stew, tea and coffee and biscuits and meat of all kinds gotten during the hunting season. On that day there isn't a single hungry stomach until the next day, I think. This is the day when fancy snowshoes are worn and fancy shoes with fancy trimmings are displayed.

During this month there were little more than 60 walrus

June 15, - July 14, 1940
Continued. Sheet no. 2

killed. This village now has a good supply of time. We feel the "Lord" has blessed the hunting and answered our prayers. It may not have been even some people expected mainly by giving us whales. Our prayers were, that the Lord bless the hunting in what ever it was His will. And it was, it seems, the Lord's will ~~one~~ whale was sufficient with many oysters and salmon. For this we thank and praise Him. Then after the main blessings were received we sought and prayed for His spiritual blessings upon our church. First Sunday in July, which was our usual Communion Sunday when our Minister is found 21 souls come forward to the Altar after the sermon asking God that His Holy Spirit may revive their faint souls and praying Him to restore them to fuller fellowship with him. The presence of Gods Holy Spirit was felt. One person rose and came forward to the Altar even before invitation was offered. And when the invitation was given with no hesitation those twenty souls came forward. Some very good testimonies from some of these people our Heavenly Father was glorified before men.

During this month my step sister by adoption passed away. There was a happy ending in her life. She expressed her joy in the knowledge of Him who gave Himself that she might have life. She forgot her sickness it seems, and even clapped her hands, said Heaven was already in sight, kissed her husband a good bye and passed away. It was somewhat a difficulty for me to conduct the funeral service but since there was no one else to do it I had to do it, depending on Gods upholding power and we got through with it in good style.

Narrative

July 15 - Aug. 14, 1840.

The ice has all drifted away now all out of sight
butting of which has continued since April 1st ended
the longest continuance of drifting that I have known
in years. The men hunted us long as the opportunity
now since they are back to the village we are taking
opportunity in leisure are repairing our church building
its furniture. It seems that every body is more than willing
to give a free hand on this job. First we painted the outside
of the church building. The only difficulty we had was, we
did not furnish enough paint brushes to supply all hands that
volunteered to help. I borrowed some brushes from the
neighborhood and we managed to get the outside of the
completed in two and a half days. However the red paint
for the roof was not quite enough to cover the whole
and we had to let part of the roof go on the back of the house.
Then the time was ready to scrub the inside with so
water practically every woman and young ladies who
were able to work came out to help. Several of the small
children who were old enough to drive dog teams hauled water from
the ice pond with their teams and supplied the scrubbers
with water more than they could use. We made two oil
door stoves which were able to heat 55 q. iron drum of
water in a very short time and supplied enough hot water
faster than what the scrubbers were able to use. It took
only one day to complete the scrubbing, including the floor
and every chair that was of use. And at the same time
all the chairs that could be repaired were fixed, including
benches. After the scrubbing was over we start painting
in the inside and today we are proud of our church building.
It never looked quite as clean both inside and out for some time.
During all the time this work was going on which was just about
10 days one meal a day was served to the workers. It was furnished
and delivered ready cooked by those who wished to serve in this way.
All that time there was never a day the workers did not get
enough to eat. All in all the Lord was acknowledged, this was
plainly seen. Every one who appeared had a mind to work in
the Lord's house. We praise and thank God for such spirit the
people had. All this work was voluntary and free.

On the third Sunday of July, God's Holy Spirit seemed to prevail

Sheet No. 2
July 15 - Aug 14th
Continued

in the heart and souls of many of us. Seventeen forward seeking Gods grace and forgiveness and pray revive them so that all may have an unbroken fellow closer communion with him. It happened, that on the the Holy spirit moved the first person in the audience the invitation was offered and how easy it was that the others when the invitation was offered. Each in the service was over these people were prayed with and exhortation by the elders. And they were exhorted to watch and pray the evil one is never asleep after an experience like theirs. To date our church members seemingly are happy in the Lord and are watching and praying that we enter not into temptation just two days ago I had the privilege of having a private conference with a young man who ^{said he} had an unconfessed sin in his heart. He had joined the church quite recently during Rev. Kleukoper's time and had wandered off into known sin. Confessed he could bear no longer, broke down in tears. I read to him as he could not such passages as I John 1:9, I John 2:1-2 and prayed with him encouraging him in his high privilege as Christian. A full time was not spent in vain. Permit me to say that every detail of our daily contact with our members is not written on paper. May your prayers be that the Lord bless this work throughout the world.

Yours respectfully, & in His service.

Roy Ahmargik

In charge of Barrow Presb. Mission

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER ON FURLough

Aug. 2nd

Rev. Boyd G. Cubbage,
States Clerk, Yukon Presbytery
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Cubbage:-

Enclosed please find monthly reports for the months March, April to July, August. Since there were no mail going out since April our reports have accumulated.

Mail boat arrived here toward the last of July but I did not get my mail out as I was busy getting our church building scrubbed and painted.

Please advise whether I am mailing these reports by air plane. As I am not familiar with the workings of your Presbytery I am mailing them to you, whereas, the instructions on the blanks say to mail them to Presbyterian Board of National Missions whom I do not as yet know.

Also please find money for amounting to \$100.00 and twenty five cents to be mailed to the Board of National Missions which was in last offering.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous summer season in your service for His cause, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick G. Klerkoper

Deacon of Barrow Presbyterian Mission

10/14/14
Dear Mr. Cubbage

Rev. Mr. Cubbage
Yukon Presbytery
Anchorage, Alaska

Combined narrative of the work,
Barrow and Fairbanks Presbyterian Missions
August 15 to September 14, 1940

We have been busy cleaning the yard around the mission and scrubbing the manse inside. The Morgans' were in helping us getting the place ready for Rev. & Mrs. K's arrival. Our personal preparation kept us busy for transfer to Fairbanks Presbyterian Mission. The days, this particular time have seemed flying swiftly by, perhaps faster than ordinary. However all the regular routine of the church activities has not been neglected or forgotten by local circumstances.

We have been hearing by radio that Rev. & Mrs. K have been trying to get caught up with the M.S. North Star by airplane but when the M.S. North Star did arrive which was the 28th of August we were disappointed. We were not able to get caught up with her due to bad weather. However they did arrive two days after by the Coast Guard Cutter. Every one was glad to see them back and they too were glad to be back with us. Only two days after their arrival I had to leave with my family by M.S. North Star for Fairbanks. This was on Saturday night and we arrived Sunday the first. met Rev. & I think and his family. Mr. Perry I think with his family who planned to have here by the M.S. North Star but all to have until yesterday of that week.

On my first Sunday in Fairbanks I met practically every one. I called the meeting of the elders and deacons after the service was over and expressed my desire to co-operate with them in the Lord's work and this called for their cooperation. The bond of Christian fellowship was evident in the meeting.

One can notice that there is more work here to be done for the uplift of spiritual condition of the people. There are more people but when there are at Barrow who do not seem to take interest in church attendance. All in all I believe this village is not quite as far advanced in their Christian experience as Barrow and

Sheet no. 2

that is why I said there is more work to
here. May we ask for your prayers for the
and us who are trying to carry on while the

Yours in the service

Ray Ahmarak

In charge of Stn. Ruby Mission
Wainwright, Alaska.

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission
Wainwright, Alaska
Narrative
September 15 to October 14, 1940.

At this time I have added a little more work to the regular routine of the church activities previously had. The visitation of the "Blitzis" by the Prayer Band has been resumed at this time. It was entirely dropped during the summer. Every Sunday afternoon at 4 P.M. the Bible class has also started weekly by request. This comes in on Wednesday after the meeting. I have also divided the Junior Church Society into two groups, the upper grade in one set Christian Endeavor etc.

The mission and its work with a young who had become careless as to his Christian conduct. He confessed that he had become disrespectful to parents, neglected prayer, & Bible reading and also give up attending church services and finally became guilty of immoral conduct. Having confessed all this of his own accord and expressing his repentance, he was admonished and prayed over by the mission. He is now attending church services faithfully and was reported being now respectful to his parents! Again may I ask for your prayers in behalf of this church and its workers.

Yours in His service,
Roy Ahmangak
Wain. Presby. Mission.
Wainwright, Alaska

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission,
Wainwright, Alaska.

Narrative

Oct. 15, - Nov. 14, 1940.

The usual routine of the work as stated in my previous reports still continues. In addition to our regular church activities, we have had to move our coal and personal supplies up to the house and also cut enough ice for winter and summer supply. Of course, you understand that these things can not be done in a day or two as all the work is done by man power and not by mechanical devices as done in the States.

As the Government school building is being enlarged this fall, the teachers have asked to use our church building to do their daily school work and at the consent of Rev. F. G. Klenkoper they are using it, supplying their own fuel and light. This does not interfere with our regular church activities.

We have had one communion meeting this month. At this meeting one of our objects was to before infant baptism at the arrival of Rev. F. G. Klenkoper. Also at this time there were two of our suspended members who expressed their intentance and desire to be reinstated to full privilege of the church. Two non-members also expressed their desire to join with the church. It was decided at this meeting that we examine these young people as to their knowledge of the Christian faith at the arrival of Rev. Klenkoper.

Our choir rehearsals are being carried on as regularly as our larger meetings. At the latter part of this month we have been preparing some hymns for our "Thanksgiving Service".

At this time most of the men are out of town trying to round up some deer that have been scattered by the wolves.

Respectfully yours in His service
Tom Chinnagak

In charge of the Presbyterian Mission
Wainwright, Alaska."

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission.
Wainwright, Alaska.

Narrative
Nov. 15-Dec. 14, 1940.

On Nov. 15th Rev. F. G. Klerkoper and his driver, who happened to be my son arrived and also my daughter-in-law and her driver. I rather think they had planned to make a surprise party for us but I tell it might help that way. Although it was quite a surprise to us when one night some one knocked at the door and here was Captain our daughter-in-law and how all children did greet her. They always treated her as one of themselves and as a sister. How the house was in a bust excitement for a moment. She had not known their arrival right in front of our house and she beat it to the house before we were able to find out they had arrived. These few days with Rev. F. G. Klerkoper were crowded with the work that needed to be done with his fiance. He had daily service for three days, beginning the next day of his arrival, which was on Saturday. The next day being Sunday we held three preaching services, beside our usual visiting. In the morning service we had infant baptism. Some babies were presented for baptism. The afternoon service was a sort of Temperance service. At the close of this service a petition was signed by the people in which they asked Federal authorities to send no limits to all liquor in this place. Then in the evening service we had communion. Sunday was our biggest day of the four days we had together. Monday night we had another service and on Tuesday of that week we made four calls to the "shanties" and gave them communion. The next day being Wednesday the party started back home for Bent. Due to round trip of and waiting of winter for Thanksgiving celebration was postponed to the 29th of November instead of the 24th as believed by the Captain. On the 28th we had our regular Thanksgiving service with our feast in the afternoon about 3 o'clock. The choir sang some special songs which we had prepared for that occasion.

Sheet no. 2.

Narrative, continued,
Nov. 15 - Dec 14, 1940.

Now that the Thanksgiving is over we are looking forward to our Christmas season.

During the month of December we have begun to prepare some special songs for Christmas. Beginning from the 7th we are having our choir rehearsal twice a week. We are also learning some more spiritual pieces.

During this month I have had four individual talks with young people who expressed a desire and desire to become Christians. I am planning now to begin a weekly Bible class for those who desire to join our church. Some of our topics will be about who is a Christian such as, what it means to be a Christian or a follower of Christ, what Christ is to the believers, and how a man may be saved. I also planned to have them study the New Testament. If there is any material for a lot of work I wish very much to have them as an addition to their scripture. I plan to start this on the first week of January.

After the school children went to the new school building I left the church building scrubbed. Twenty five women came to help clean up and we gave them some hot tea, coffee, and cake to their choice. All had good time.

Truthfully yours in His service

Roy Daugler

In charge Brimlight Presbyterian Church
Brimlight, Alaska.

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission
Wainwright, Alaska.

December 15, 1940 - January 14, 1941

Narrative

This is the month when we do not have the sun. It is the time when we have to keep our gasoline lamps trimmed, operators cleaned, take care that the number of our lamps are not broken. All in all it adds to our pastoral work to have to fill our lamps every day and remain in the church for we must have lamps and we suffer from nothing till bed time. But we wish we could have electric lights some day in this mission which both our church and home could be lighted.

During the first part of this month we held a funeral service for an old woman who died in the last. She was a member of the Graceful church of Point Hope. Perhaps a little of her history might be of interest and be interested for the last. Some years ago about two more years ago she had the privilege of going to Canada by a Canadian ship operated by Hudson's Bay Co. to visit her son who had married a girl to the Eastward and had raised a family. During this visit she came across natives who were living in the primitive way. Just in the same way our forefathers lived with Heathenish practices. There were no missionaries. Only visitors where natives occasionally had were the Canadian Mounted Police. She began to tell these people that there was a God in heaven who made all earth and every thing else what existed which they could see. She told them that this God in heaven said every word they said and in every action they took and that he had love by which he should live.

in order to please Him. She also told them that this God had send His Son to save mankind. This woman testifies that she had some remarkable answers to prayer especially when she prayed for the sick. And these natives respected her and her words. No one but her Lord knows how much good she has done in the far eastward.

We are having our choir rehearsals twice a week so that we may be able to sing our songs on Christmas Day. Since there has been no special Christmas Program in the church, put up by my predecessor I did not venture to get one out this year. Since we have no material for Christmas decorations to decorate our church and no money for costumes I thought it was just as well we did not try to put up a Christmas program, because we are quite handicapped by lacking these materials. How we wish that some church out there would feel sorry for us and provide us with decorations for Christmas and maybe costumes if they have some they want to discard. We would be glad to take them over for we will not charge the usual church salary.

We had special Christmas Day Service and sang the songs that we rehearsed during this month. We also sang to the people in the feast and they enjoyed our songs. We had night caroling on the "Holy Night." We sang Christmas carols to every home from out of doors with stars and the heavens for our roof and occasional northern light playing above our heads, perhaps to remind us of the glory of the Angel Choir when they sang the Christmas Carols to the shepherds of old. We completed the homes about 5:30 in the morning and I rewarded the faithful ones who endured to the last with hot cocoa after our caroling. We all enjoyed the night and stayed for few hours to be up again for eleven o'clock

service. During that day many of the people, especially the whites expressed to us their appreciation of our caroling which they did not expect. I had told the choir to keep it to themselves when I told them not plane about caroling and this served as a surprise to many homes. One of the members of a family, awakened by our singing thought that they had gone to sleep without turning off their radio and as she was getting up to turn it off she realized that it was not the radio but people singing outside of their house. During the time between Christmas and New Year, Government teacher had charge of the daily program for the village and we did not interfere.

Since the men had to be on the go during the day due to scarcity of food in the village we had our New Year service in the evening.

It seems that when the rush and work for the preparation of Christmas season is over and New Year is just begin one feels that he should relax physically and spend part of his time in prayer and meditation to thank and please for the work that is ahead. Personally, thinking over the past year and realizing how swiftly it seems to have fled by and looking forward to the tasks that are ours to do for His Kingdom's advancement, I feel humble and ask Him that He forgive me for the things that I might of left undone, and in a fresh commitment to Him and His help, resolve to give my service to Him for the coming year to the best of my knowledge and ability with His help.

During this time we have had three Session Meetings and looked after the welfare of our church writing our Annual Report for your peruse. I remain,

ALASKA

one in this town,
Roy Amosuk

Barrow Presbyterian Mission
Barrow, Alaska.
Jan. 15 - Feb. 14, 1941

Narrative

Days are getting longer every day, and we are not very
farther the present situation of the community is pretty
hard pressed due to lack of food supply. Since the law
bitching is prohibited the people are living many of their
days by starvation and at times when feeling well
are not very good, are therefore long. Due to in-
crease of tundra during the past year the natives
not allowed to bitching any more.

Chape due to both sickness and shortage of food
which the tundra has somewhat decreased. Both men
and women who are able are out hunting, women
to the fishing places and men out seal hunting.

We are still able to carry on our weekly program as
usual. Our rehearsal being held every week. Sunday
meeting had once this month. I have conducted a
weekly class of prospective members along with my
other church work.

On the first Sunday of February I organized monthly
cottage prayer meetings in the homes and allotted each
district to each elder. It is favorable to all and
we hope and pray it will mean closer fellowship with
God and with the other members in his district.

During this month my son, age 13 years, took sick
of appendicitis and I had to make a trip to Fairbanks
to have him operated. Before I left we made arrangements
with the elders for them to conduct the
church services in turn, during my absence. While in
Fairbanks I had the privilege of sitting in the pulpit with
Rev. F. S. Klockofer his interpreter and once preached
to the people. Both Rev. & Mrs. Klockofer were very kind
in extending their hospitality all the time I was there
and sharing their meals with me as much as I could
to. I was gone for a week and five days. My son I
expect to see again on the second day we get back. The story he has
told me in our last month's mail is

ALASKA

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission
Wainwright, Alaska.
Jan. 2, 1941.

Elliott B. King, LL.D.
156 Fourth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:-

Your "Christmas and New Year's" greeting was received in time. Thanks for same and kindly extend our appreciation for same to the following names, Helen E. Wolf, Thelma T. Livingston and Dorothy Henderson. In turn may we wish you all our best wishes and kindest regards for this coming year. Thanking you, I remain,

Sincerely yours
Roy & Gladys Ahnuayok

P.S. Your letter of Nov. the 19th received but the booklet, A year with the Bible for 1941 is still somewhere along the mail route. As advised I shall ask our Sunday School Superintendent to write a letter of thanks to Miss McLean through your office when the books are received.

R.G.

January 21, 1941

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Wainwright, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ahmaogak:

Thank you for your two interesting letters relative to your work.

I was especially interested in the program you mentioned regarding the Prayer Bands and the visitation of the shut-ins. Please take time to give me a more detailed description of this fine Christian work and service.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

WAINWRIGHT PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Wainwright, Alaska.

Feb. 15 to Mar. 14, 1941.

Narrative

In this narrative I wish to explain more fully how our visitations to the "Shutins" are conducted and I also wish to explain about the monthly cottage Prayer Meetings which we have started last month. Every Sunday afternoon between four and five o'clock some of our members visit the Shutins to have prayers with them and to read to them from the Scriptures. In most cases the Sunday School Lesson for that day is used for scripture reading. For the opening of the meeting a translated song is sung, after which the leader prays. After this prayer another translated song is sung after which individual prayers are offered, lead by the shutin who is visited. After these prayers scripture reading follows. Then another translated song is sung and the meeting is closed with a Benediction repeated by all. Many a shutin is glad to be remembered in this way on the Lord's Day.

The monthly Cottage Prayer Meeting which was started last month is held on first Sunday evening of every month. On that time the Services are conducted in each elders district instead of having it together in the church. The village is divided into five districts according to the number of our elders at present, and each elder get together with the people in his district and conducts the Service. Before this takes place I always have the elders get together and have short prayer with them and select a lesson for that service. I believe this get together of each elder and the people in his district at the begining of each month helps to promote christain fellowship and to renew our obligations and consecration to our Master at the beginning of each month. The elders believe this to be very helpful spiritually.

On first Sunday of this month we had the pleasure of having Rev. F. G. Klerekoper with us. I travelled with him and his driver from Barrow. The last day getting into Wainwright was a stormy one. The snow storm was so bad that at times we could hardly see the dogs in the lead. We managed to get to the village between seven and eight in the evening and were very glad to get into shelter. In getting home I found that all our gas lamps were out of commission due to poor grade of oil and candles were being used for light instead. So the very first thing I had to do when I got my traveling clothes off was to work on the gas lamps which I got fixed in little while.

On Sunday we had our regular Sunday Services and had our Communion Service in the evening. At this time eight young people were admitted to full membership and one suspended member reinstated. As previously reported, for about a month or more I had weekly class of a group of young people and out of this class eight expressed their desire to become members of the church. We also had one service on Monday evening conducted by Rev. Klerekoper. Then on Wednesday morning Rev. Klerekpper left for Barrow.

With the begining of March we cannot help but look forward to "Easter Season". In looking over some old papers in the attic I came across 14 copies of "Choir Heralds" which happened to be Easter number. That gave me and the choir something to work on. From now on we shall be learning these anthems in our choir practice and use them on Easter Service. In order to save gasoline and coal I combined the Juniors and the Intermediates into one group and have our

Feb. 15 to Mar. 14, 1941.

Narrative

choir practice at 4 o'clock instead of at night after evening service. In order to have the full number of choir we conduct our choir rehearsal on Sunday afternoons. We also have one after every midweek service but never have the full choir at that time. I am also planning to have in eskimo language a sacred play titled "Challenge of the Cross". I have already translated it all into the eskimo language and have also before translated the songs that have to be sung between acts. The only thing remain to be done is to select the actors. And here may I say that it is not a very simple matter to translate English into Eskimo language but it is harder yet to translate English Hymns into Eskimo language since the words have to fit the music or rather the notes of the music. This program will take place on the evening of "Good Friday".

We are praying the Lord will bless His work and use it for His glory.

There is still scarcity of food in the village. The fishes are not as plentiful as they use to be and the seals too. These two items are the main existence of the people in this village. Some of us are wondering if these things might not be an errand of mercy in disguise. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Rom. 8:28.

Respectfully in His Service,

Roy Ahmaogak
In charge of the Main. Presby. Mission.

ALASKA

WAINWRIGHT PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
Wainwright, Alaska.
Mar. 15 to Apr. 14, 1941.

Narrative.

As we approach the "Easter Season" it seems to put into us a new vigor for the tasks that are ours to do for Him whom we are serving. It is with joy and pleasure that we are preparing our songs for Easter Service". On Sunday afternoons we are learning the anthems in the "Choir Herald" and on Wednesday night after Prayer Meeting we take up the translated songs which we are going to sing in the program on "Good Friday".

At this time many of the men are leaving the village to take up their traps and for the lack of quorum we have had only one session meeting. Several people have reported that there are several foxes to be had if one looks after his trap lines but several of the people have lost their dogs by starvation, so are not able to go very far from the village. Just recently the ice broke off close to the beach and has made poor sealing condition. In fact every thing has seem to be very unusual this winter. Ice condition is peculiar. Seals, fishes and even reindeer all seem to disappear. Half of the reindeer herd disappeared early in the fall, driven away by the wolves and have not been located since. There is still scarcity of food in the village. Several people have made trips to Barrow for some whiteman's grub such as flour and cereal, sugar, tea and coffee. Early this month a ton of supplies were brought here by an aeroplane from Kotzebue for the native store which was a big help.

During these times I am stressing more and more the significance of Easter and as much as I am able although very limited in my ability I am trying to make my sermons evangelical.

First Sunday evening of April finds each elder having prayer service with his people in his district.

The following Friday was "Good Friday" and we had a good crowd in the church. Having advertised it and extented invitation beforehand helped to give us good attendance, numbering 240. This I believe is the largest congregation we have had this winter. When the program began it seemed as if the people were gripped by the words spoken. And the actors did very well too. Every^{one} said and sung were done in eskimo. The room was so quiet that one probably could have notice a pin drop on the floor. It could be easily seen in the peoples' faces that many were very much impressed. In fact, after the service was over one person asked if he could say something. In his testimony he said that this occassion helped to make him realise his mistake several years ago when he was a younger man ... he refused the office of an elder when Rev. Spriggs was Minister in Barrow. There were others also who spoke in turn encouraging each other also saying that this program had helped them to understand the significance of living for Christ openly and in humility. One person, an elderly man told me personally that never before in church services had he seen the time so short. He said he would not have mind it if the program was longer, which indeed was long enough.

The following Sunday was Easter. We had the pleasure of singing the Easter Anthems which we have been learning. We had few white people in the audience. Miss Keaton our Gov't nurse was kind in helping us when we were learning these songs. The attendance that Easter morning totaled 230, ten less than we had on Good Friday.

Mar. 15 to Apr. 14, 1941.

Narrative.

I believe our prayers for God's blessing upon this occurrence was answered and I am planning on putting the sort of a climax of our Evangelistic services on the coming Sunday.

We are looking forward to the next month for better living conditions. Soon after the Easter Season is passed we begin to feel the season is changing into springtime. The nature itself seems to sense that now is the time to awake out of a deep winter sleep.

The last winter mail passed here arch 28th and these reports will have to be held until navigation opens, toward the last of July. To God be glory and honour, dominion and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Respectfully in His service,

Roy Ahnogak

Wainwright Presbyterian Mission.

ALASKA

Barrow, Alaska.
May 16, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.

Dear Dr. King:

Your letter dated April 25 received this evening and I was again very glad to hear from you. It is always a joy to hear from you since having come to know you at Wainwright. I hope that in the near future we may be permitted to meet again in some Mission field and together again witness for our Master as at Wainwright.

Please be assured that you are not going to lose me from my side of the case, unless it be by death, for the work in the kingdom for some other work that may come up, nor for the school work which I had accepted temporarily. I feel the call for the Lord's work is too obvious for me to ignore or disregard. If you will permit me to give a sort of a testimony for this cause I would like to do it now.

Back in 1925 or '26 Dr. Greist who was then our Missionary and doctor in charge of the Mission here suggested for my recommendation to the Yukon Presbytery along with Andrew Akootchook to study under their care for licentiates. But somehow I did not take it very seriously and felt at the time that I was not worthy of the vocation, considering it to be a holy thing. I felt then as I do now that in order to do this work as properly as I should I needed to do more studying than I was doing at that time. Most of all though, the biggest hindrance of accepting the call at that time was, the sense of unworthiness for the high calling which afterwards I realized as weakness of my faith in my Saviour who had offered Himself for my very unworthiness. After much thinking and praying I surrendered and told the Lord that if He was willing to use me in His work I trusted that He would open the way for me. As time went on it was always in my heart and prayer that if He would use me I needed His grace and that if He opened the way for me, I was ready any time. Then the time came when Rev. Klerekoper approached me three or four years ago, asking if I would consider relieving him when his time for furlough came. Without any doubt that it was the Lord's call, I consented and not long afterwards we started on the studies he selected and a joy it was to have had the privilege of studying. More joy followed when I began to experience the privilege of preaching. I thank God that through His longsuffering He finally persuaded me that He was in the wheel, steering what I might call circumstances until I was willing to submit to His will. This God of love I now want to serve and glorify to the best of my ability.

Whatever plans you have for me I trust they are of God centered thoughts and I know you will use your best judgement.

Thanks a million for your efforts in trying to have my order come through. With prayers that God may bless and guide you in all you do for Him I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Roy Ahmaogak

Roy Ahmaogak

WAINWRIGHT PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Wainwright, Alaska.

Apr. 15 to May 14, 1941

Narrative.

Conditions are now showing some signs of spring. Snow birds are a happy sight and the ptarmegans are doing their share now that they are here, to relieve many a hungry stomach.

Now is the time to have all traps taken up according to the Territorial Laws. Some of the men have come home but there are some still out. The next thing for the men to do will be to take their omiaks out and camp on the ice on the edge of the open water and watch for whales to come by. Just as soon as some of the men came home from their trapping camps they start seal hunting and sometimes camp out there for days. Many are still having difficulty in getting enough to eat. Some ducks are flying North now too and those who can afford to buy some ammunition can be getting some ducks. Perhaps the hunger at this time would not be so prevalent had the stores supplies for sale. There has been more work going on here this year than at other times but the stores have no grub to sell. The natives who are able to make the trip have made trips to Pt. Lay 100 miles south of here and some to Barrow which is 100 miles North of here.

First Sunday of this month was a joy in seeing 12 persons expressed repentance and sought closer communion with God. The elders and myself remained after dismissing the audience and prayed with these people. Each of them knelt in prayer with us and in turn offered prayers asking God to forgive them of their sins and accept them as His own. They were encouraged to accept God's way of salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the end they all seemed enlightened and were made happy in the Lord.

On May 12 the wife of Mr. Ben Evans formerly teacher of Gov't. school, who afterwards established a store here, died. For the benefit of the husband who is a white man I had to use both languages when I conducted the funeral service.

We hear many whales are passing by and several whales have been killed in Pt. Hope and also one or two whales killed in Barrow. The open lead being too close to the shore here not many whales have been sighted.

When I made a trip to Barrow to get my son who was operated on some months ago I was hoping they would get a whale in Barrow but they did not get any while I was there. I left here on Monday and arrived in Barrow the next night. Staying over Wednesday I was asked to take charge of the prayer meeting which I gladly did. Mr. Klerekoper was gone having left several days before to make a thousand mile trip by dogteam to Demarcation Pt. I made arrangements with the elders to take charge of the prayer meeting here during my absence. I got back from Barrow in time to do my work here the following Sunday.

Please remember to pray for this church and its workers.

Sincerely

Roy Ahmaogak

ALASKA

Wainwright, Alaska.
Aug. 4, 1941.

Rev. E.B. King D.D.
Pres. Board of Nat'l. Missions,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I have received your letter of April 3rd. notifying that Percy is coming back to take up the work here. I am glad that he can be back and work with these people. I am also glad that I was permitted to give my services to the Lord's cause for a year in Wainwright. I have enjoyed the work immensely although times here were extra hard at times. But I believe these things have not come upon this village by chance or accident. As we look back at the year that is past, with all that it has brought many of us feel that it had its message for this place and has caused many in this village to seek closer communion with our heavenly Father. The Sunday School Lessons that we were having from three or four weeks before Easter fitted so amazingly the present circumstances that many of us still wonder if in the years past we have not walked or wandered off and trodden the trail the Israelites traveled and brought hard times upon themselves. The S.S. Lessons for the month of June 1940 especially hit the nail on the head,

I am sorry to report that your circular letter to the Alaskan Missions in connection with the special offering for the Board of National Missions to be forwarded by the 31st of March was not received until this month. The letter along with the envelopes for this offering did not arrive here until last week and the following Sunday this subject was brought to the people's attention and the letter read to the people. I had the elders give out the envelopes to those who were willing when the service was over. We are planning now to have our offering on the coming Communion when Rev. Klerekoper comes here.

We are also planning to scrub the church and clean around the yard in the near future before I leave the field.

Well, I suppose I should worry about what I shall do for existence the coming year but I'm not. Faith in God has settled this problem and I am depending on Him and I know He is my Goel as much as anybody else. I have come to know that my impossibility is His possibility. If I do that which is in my power to do He will do the rest which is my impossible.

My monthly reports may be a little slow in coming but please look for them and they will eventually get under way.
With kindest regards I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Roy Ahmaogak

ALASKA

Barrow, Alaska.
Oct. 31, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
Board of Nat'l Missions
of the Presby. Church
in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y.

Wrote you back?

Dear Dr. King:-

It was good to have seen you and to have had a privilege of interpreting for you in our church service at Wainwright. That was a good service and I believe the Lord was present in power for conviction. I am sure that your trip to this part of the Presbyterian Territory was not in vain.

I got home from Wainwright the 15th of September, perhaps a little earlier than I really should. But as the winter was setting in and my family not yet settled in our own house I was somewhat anxious to get back home. The house needed some fixing up and I had no fuel supply for the cold winter months so I felt I had to get home. Percy Ipalook was still in the hospital when I arrived. However he got well enough to get back home two weeks later.

I then was asked to take up the church work here as soon as I arrived for Mr. Klerekoper had not yet returned from Fairbanks. When he finally came back we started to work together. I really deserted him though for a few days in order to have time to haul some drift wood and coal for fuel. When that was done we then started to work together in the line of church work and in study of the eskimo language. But it wasn't very long after, the school needed one more assistant teacher so they went after me. Having learned of my twelve year experience on that line of work they said I was best in the village for that job. So the principal of the school finally persuaded Mr. Klerekoper to give his consent. I had entirely left it to Mr. Klerekoper to decide the matter. But I made one thing clear to them that I had no intentions to break away from the church work unless the Board said so. I also said that I was willing to work if it was approval to Mr. Klerekoper and you. After some hours of discussion we finally came to the conclusion that we would try it out. So on the first of this month I began as employed by the Office of Indian Affairs. I still continue my work along the line of church too. It gives me more work but I don't mind that for one year. It is not my intention to stay in the school service if my services are needed in the church work. There will probably be a teacher sent up next year and rumors have it there may be a building put up next year for teachers' residence.

At this time Mr. Klerekoper is out taking his vacation. He is making a trip to the interior and hopes to be gone a month. He left me in charge of the church work during his absence. I am also helping Mrs. Klerekoper with her Eskimo study twice a week and at the same time doing my daily work in school. All this work have not begun to thin me yet so you need not worry. I thank the Lord that He has given me health so that I am able to work and it is my prayer and desire that all I am able to do may be done to His honor and glory.

With all "Good Wishes and success" in your work for "Him", I remain,

Cordially,
Joy Ahmaogak
Joy Ahmaogak

Roy Ahmaogak - Yukon Presbytery

Roy Ahmaogak is a native Eskimo, about forty years old, married and with a family of ten children. During the time of Percy Ipalook's study at Dubuque Seminary, Roy Ahmaogak served as supply at Wainwright and he has also supplied on many occasions for Rev. Frederick Klerekoper, Barrow. Mr. Ahmaogak is an Elder in the Barrow Church. In the Spring when Mr. Klerekoper makes his 1000 trip to Demarcation Point and back Roy Ahmaogak accompanies him and assists in the work which is carried on.

February 4, 1942

AIRMAIL

Mr. Roy Ahmaogok
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Roy:

I was very glad to receive your letter of October 31st. It was a privilege so far as I am concerned to have been associated with you in Fairbanks. You made a real impression. I think that you have the gifts and talents to render a real service for our Lord.

I was glad to note in your letter that you were not severing your relationship with the church in taking over the temporary work in the school. We are very anxious to keep you in full time work of the church and believe that you have a mission to fill.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McM

Barrow, Alaska.
April 5, 1942.

Dr. Everett B. King,
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth ave. New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Mr. Klerekoper has referred to me the possibility of being stationed in charge of a Mission station elsewhere. Perhaps it is not needful that I tell you it is my heart's desire to serve our "Master" where He sees fit. And yet, like Moses of old, I feel guilty of prone to make excuses of not being able to speak as well as I should. But if it is definite that the Lord says Go, I am willing to go with a willing heart and soul. Need I to say that I have dedicated my life to him who did much for me? If He sees fit to use me in his work for the advancement of His cause, nothing shall stop me.

I am sure you are sharing the Joys of this "Easter Sunday" as we are, though we be far apart one is our joy. Wishing you the "Happiest Easter Season" may I say, the Lord bless and guide us in all that we do for Him.

Respectfully yours,

Roy Ahmaogak
Roy Ahmaogak

April 25, 1942

Mr. Roy Ahmangak,
Barrow,
Alaska

Dear Roy:

I notified Mr. Fred Klerekoper that we were trying to send through your order for supplies and that we would charge the same against the salary we had set aside to pay you but was never called for. I am very glad to be able to do this for you and trust it will be of some real help.

I do not want to lose you because I feel you have a real contribution to make in the building of the Kingdom. At present we do not have any openings for your full-time service, but no one can tell when that opening might appear. I do hope that when it does appear, that you will be willing and able to accept the call and answer the challenge.

I shall never forget the fine fellowship that I enjoyed with you there in Wainwright.

Cordially yours,

EBK-M

Barrow Alaska.
May 9, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
Board of the Nat'l Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Since having been informed by Rev. Klerekoper of the possibility of my going out to the States for a year, for more training for the work which I have dedicated myself, I have prayed much asking for the Lord's guidance. Now having been convinced that He through His guidance has put it into the hearts of His Ministers that this be the case, I have committed myself unreservedly.

Realizing as always the difficulties and handicaps I may encounter out there both in public speaking and study due to my very limited education, I only ask that this limitation or handicap be explained to the professors of the school where I am going to be placed.

Like Paul of old I want to be able to testify as my own, the words found in Phil. 4: 10-13- especially the 13th verse where it says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Only through Him can I overcome my difficulties.

Please excuse me for this short note. It is meant to assure you that I am not my own, I resign to His will when it is revealed.

Hoping and praying that you may continue on in your good work for the "Master" and that ours may be a constant unbroken fellowship and communion with our Lord and Master and with each other, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Roy Ahmaogak

Roy Ahmaogak

May 29, 1942

ALAMAIL

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Brother Roy:

I was glad to get the letter dated May 9th in which you indicate that you are willing to come out to the States and pursue some training that will equip you for greater leadership in the Lord's service. I cannot now offer you any definite proposition but I am making plans looking forward to consummating them in the fall. As I wrote to Mr. Klerekoper I think it would be wise for you to make your plans now to come to the States and enter some college next fall. With your personality and with your consecration a few months training here in the States would give you additional power to use for Christ's Kingdom.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

June 9, 1942

Rev. Dr. J. S. Armentrout
Presbyterian College of Christian Education
1441 Cleveland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Armentrout:

Roy Ahmaogek, a native Eskimo, is a lay worker at Point Barrow. He is about forty-two years old and has an unusually bright mind. I am quite sure that he has not had a full high school education. However, the Government has employed him temporarily to teach in their Government school there at Barrow. We are planning to bring Roy to the States in the Fall and to have him take at least a year's training.

It would not be possible for him to receive very much credit for the work that he would do. I was thinking that he might spend his time in the most fruitful manner by coming to Chicago and enrolling in classes both in the College of Christian Education and in the Seminary. If you feel that such an exception could be made, please let me know and we will work accordingly.

Let me know, too, the expenses that would be involved in such a year's training.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

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Presbyterian College of Christian Education

1441 CLEVELAND AVENUE
CHICAGO

Office Telephone—Mohawk 2021
REV. ROBERT LEE SAWYIER, D. D.
President

June 16, 1942.

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:-

I hardly know how to reply to your letter of June 9th relative to Mr. Ahmaogak. We are, as I think you know, setting out this Fall on a policy of making this college fully graduate, at the same time leaving some opportunity for the registration of special students. We are also setting out to work with the Seminary enrolling our students in their classes for a good deal of our work in Bible and in certain other fields.

I am not at all sure what the Seminary would be willing to do about admitting this man to their classes and I have not yet had an opportunity to check with Dean Sellers about it.

I am much interested in cooperating to the fullest degree with the work of the Board of National Missions and have the feeling that we ought to admit this worker to courses in the College as a special student. Again as I have indicated, speaking for the Seminary, nor am I sure but that he would find himself well over his depth and much disturbed in and by the Seminary courses.

As soon as I have been able to get into touch with Dean Sellers, I will write you further and in the meantime will be glad to have you give consideration to the problems I have raised. You will keep in mind, will you not, that we are anxious to cooperate?

I think the expenses for this man would run at about six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650.00). This would include some money for personal expenses. I will be very happy to figure this more closely with you as we go along.

Very sincerely yours,

ArmentROUT
Acting Dean

JSA:D

June 18, 1942

Rev. Dr. J. S. Armentrout
1441 Cleveland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Armentrout:

Of course, I shall be perfectly willing to abide by whatever decision you and Dean Sellers make relative to Mr. Ahmaoyak. However, I do not want you to underestimate this man's mental capacity. In my brief contact with him, I have been greatly impressed by his quick mind and his unbelievable ability to comprehend and grasp things. It is my judgment that the Seminary courses would not disturb him unless these courses have been greatly changed since my day.

When you reach a decision, which I hope will be very soon, please advise me.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

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1441 CLEVELAND AVENUE
CHICAGO

Office Telephone—Mohawk 2021
REV. ROBERT LEE SAWYIER, D. D.
President

June 25, 1942.

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:-

As I wrote you on June 16th, I had a very real question as to how I ought to answer your request concerning Mr. Ahmaogak. Since that time I have had a conference with Dean Sellers who tells me that they cannot undertake to admit to courses persons without the essential preliminary training. This decision is arrived at out of experience. He tells me that they have had such individuals around from time to time and discover that they are very unhappy in the whole situation.

As I said to you in my letter, if it seems to be wise, we will admit this man to courses in the College, as a special student. He can get in this way courses in Christian education and a minimum of Bible, since we will be offering most of our Bible work through the Seminary curriculum.

I gave you cost figures which could probably be lowered, if the Seminary has a room in which he could live. I suspect this would be possible.

I am putting the whole matter before you and not expressing a judgment as to what ought to be done. As I have said, I'll undertake to express the willingness of the College to cooperate.

Very sincerely yours,

J. L. Sawyer
Acting Dean

JSA:D

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June 29, 1942

Rev. Mr. J. S. Armentrout
1441 Cleveland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Armentrout:

Your letter of June 25th has been received during Dr. King's absence on vacation. We shall hold this for his attention upon his return the first part of August.

Cordially yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

McE

Barrow, Alaska.
Oct. 22, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of Nat'l Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U.S.A. New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

Dear Dr. King:

I must apologize first of all for having neglected my correspondence with you as I should. Though not knowing whether it is a good policy or not to state one's excuses I wish to state my reasons for much of this neglect.

Having been informed that I might have to go to the States for a year Mr. Klerekoper and I had decided that I should do all I can to store away as many seals and other games as I could for the coming year so my family would not have to lack meat during my absence. In fact, Mr. Klerekoper very kindly went even as far as to hire a man for two weeks to hunt seals with me. Our goal or aim was to get 50 seals in that time. So with much desire to make good, this man and I left the village for down the coast and made a camp. To make the story short, at the end of two weeks we were fortunate enough to have killed 52 seals. During that time the village was to have a celebration or nalukataq, as the natives call it, for the one whale killed but we did not even cared to participate in the celebration although muktuk, whale's skin to both of us like to a white man's his favorite eats. But we did not regret being left out on muktuk because we had done well in sealing. We did the best of anyone in sealing in the village.

Soon after this seal hunting the ice drifted away and walrus hunting began. Perhaps this is the most exciting part of our hunting. For one whole week load after load of walrus was brought into the village by the crews. Of course I was getting my share of the catch all this time as any one else. It was while this was going on that Mr. Klerekoper received his wire asking if I would be willing to go to St. Lawrence Island. So having stored away a good supply of meat for the year I was in a possession to leave my family without a worry for their meat. So when Mr. Klerekoper approached me on the subject of going to the Island I said whatever the Board decides was O.K. with me. Some people tried to persuade me not to go saying the Japs might get to the place there since it was closer to Japan but my answer was what would have happened to humanity if Christ had shirked from his mission in order to save His life. If I was called to shepherd the flock there I said it would be a glory for me to die with the people there if that need be. So for a long while we planned on my going to St. Lawrence Island. And in that time the thought of my going there was a joy to me as I wanted to work with people who were totally strangers to me. That would have been quite an experience for me not knowing the language either. Having been in Wainwright number of times and having travelled between here and Demarcation I know each individual by name, but to have been placed in a totally strange place and people where one's own dialect may not be understood would have been a real experience. But as you know I got sick unexpectedly and had to be in the hospital. That lasted three weeks and having had talks with the Doctor Mr. Klerekoper thought best that we had better let some one else fill that

vacancy. I might have had an operation if it wasn't for too much oksrok(native word for fat). Two questions lingered in my mind during that time. Was the plan not in accord with God's will or was it a test of my faith to prove me if I was willing to trust Him for His care inspite of sickness? One thing we know, that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Rom.8:28.

As always I leave it to you and Mr. Klerekoper to do the planning and deciding. Where I come in is when I join with you in my prayers that His will may be our course. At this time I feel perfectly normal, physically again. In fact to prove myself I did some ice cutting today which is quite a heavy work and it did not have an uncomfortable effect on me.

Your suggestion through Mr. Armstrong by wire of my taking Percy's place in Wainwright is favorable if Percy wishes to take over the St. Lawrence Presbyterian Mission. It will be closer for me in Wainwright to the Doctor in case I get sick again. I believe Mr. Klerekoper has stated what my ailment was. Probably stones in my gall bladder and perhaps a chronic appendicitis. I know now what food to avoid and as long as I follow the Doctor's advise I know I'll be alright.

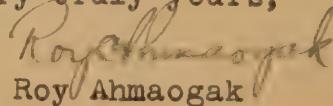
The School Service offered me the job of teaching again for this year with a promotion but I did not accept the job. Having to state my reason I told them that I owe my time to the Mission Board and that I was very much satisfied with the way you and Mr. Klerekoper had treated me. Of course there is that spiritual part of the work which is our motive for this work or service which we hold higher than the material blessings which we sometimes think best to keep to ourselves rather than to let out. In other words we sometimes only cast our pearls before the swine to have them trampled under their feet and it is wise to follow our Master's advise where He said, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and rend you.

Mr. Klerekoper and I have started conferences twice a week, open for anyone to see us who cares to talk over their problems or difficulties with us and already we have the assurance that it is a piece of work worth while spending time for. Many a soul have been lifted to a brighter side of life in Christ Jesus. You probably have his reports of the results of that work along with his reports on other things.

Your "Christmas gift", a book called, The Spiritual Diary, arrived last September and I was very much pleased to get it. Thanks a million for the book and for your remembrance of me. I couldn't help but read it through when I got it and I was pleased to have known at least one man who gave a comment on one text and that was you, dated Sept. 7.

May yours be a very happy season and best of health.

Very truly yours,



Roy Ahmaogak

Barrow, Alaska.
Jan. 30, 1943.

Dr. Everett B. King,
Board of Nat'l Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Your two letters were received on the last mail and very much appreciated. One was dated October 23 and the other December 10.

I was just about ready to enquire about my invoices either to your office or Schwabacher Grocery Co. when it finally came from your office for which I thank you very much. I see from the list that my order exceeded what was due me from salary for the past year. It was not my intention to draw over the amount coming to me but I suppose the rise on prices set me off that much in my estimation, due to war. When making out my order I figured the estimate cost of merchandise according to their prices in their catalog and what was not listed or rather priced from Klerekopers' invoices of year ago. I am sure you will balance the deficit from this year's salary as soon as I am credited. I assure you that this is very much appreciated. You have certainly done me favor by making it possible to have the supplies ship to me though the freight North was somewhat difficult. Words fail me to express my gratitude for your attention on these matters. If it is your approval I would like to order again.

I believe this has been the coldest winter we have had for good many years. My potatoes and onions froze as hard as rock in the house but since this is the country where frozen fish and meat which the whites and natives call kwak or quak is favorite dish for both alike, we can still use our frozen potatoes and onions to our satisfaction. Honest, frozen fish and meat is getting to be a popular dish for the whites here. If you ever get this far north again I am sure Klerekopers or the hospital staff will not let you leave the vicinity without the taste of frozen fish or meat. If they fail or forget to do so you whisper it in my ear and I will remind them of it or invite you to my home for the taste of it, eh.

As to my physical condition I've never felt quite as good as I do at present. I am sure you would see a much slimmer man now than the one you saw at Wainwright some years ago. To date I have rid myself of 30 pounds and can now walk more miles with less difficulty. The size of pants I used to wear without the support of belt or suspenders I now have to hold from falling off 'till I fastened my belt.

What's wrong with me anyway? I can't seem to tell you anything worth taking your time for and anything except about myself and personal affairs. Well, sense of humor, I suppose is a good medicine for one to take once in a while, so it seems to me anyway.

The town, rather the village have had quite a prosperous hunting. Many seals have been gotten. Eight or more polar bears have been killed. About two hundred or more foxes have been caught.

At present the church and the school are closed due to bad colds.

The people at Wainwright seem to have it more severe. The doctor had to rush down there and tend to the sick. Whatever the sickness may be I think it pays for all to take the cautious side of things. I hope it does not get any worse here. Its bad enough to have colds in summer when the weather is warm and comfortable but far worse when in some homes warmth is wanting due to lack of fuel for stove. in winter. Well, there is always the sun shining in its brightness though the clouds may cover it for a moment and we know that things will turn to our favor again soon.

Is there an expression such as "ears agog"? If so, perhaps my ears are in such a position more than ordinarily, to hear what definite plans have been decided on for St. Lawrence and Wainwright Missions. I understand that you have placed this matter in the hands of a man in our country. So then in the meantime I'll work and wait with patience.

May the "New Year" bring you many joyous and happy returns for the many services you have rendered in the Name of Him who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy Ahmaogak

Barrow, Alaska.
Apr. 18, 1943.

Br. Everett B. King:
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Many, many thanks for your "Christmas gift" the book called A Diary of Private Prayer. You can be well assured that you have helped the author at least in touching one soul for desire to go into the deeper knowledge of a great God and to know more of His love and plan for each one of us and to covet the thoughts and words so brilliantly put into the prayers in the book. I thank God that He understands the desire of our hearts that of closer and a deeper fellowship with Him though we may not be able to express them in words as well as we should. When I read the book and meditate on each prayer and utter my personal needs in prayer inspired by the prayer read I cannot help but feel the warmth of God's grace and love and know that I am blest by it. How glorious and marvelous must have been the prayers of our Master on earth and even now interceding in our behalf, when one sinner saved by grace could utter so broad a meditation, praise and intercession as Dr. John Baillie. I am persuaded there is many a man who has come to know his or her God as close to life as Dr. Baillie. I believe there are millions of devoted prayers uttered unwritten in book from souls like that of Dr. Baillie which God alone knows. I strive to be a member of that group of people and I know you are too.

Here's a little about our missionary trip to the east coast as far as Demarcation Pt. I was glad to have been given the opportunity to accompany Rev. Klerekoper on this trip by plane. It didn't seem like a travel to me. No string of dogs to feed three times a day, no camp to put up each night for 30 days and harnessing and unharnessing of dogs each morning and evening. We were back to Barrow in 4 days time. It was my first experience in an airplane ride. On our first circling in the air I had to close my eyes in order to keep my stomach right side out. What stands out to me on this trip is the faithfulness of the people in their Christian convictions. They expressed the joy of having heard the preached word and having commemorated the Lord's Supper with us, both by their words and expression. And our work for the Master was filled with joy on our part. We saw Andrew Akootchook at Barter Island alone with his family. There was one family near there about three miles away. Andrew's 4 boys and 2 sons in law totaled a catch of 178 foxes. This is considered extraordinary catch. Andrew himself had been sick for sometime. He told us that he was about to pass out at one time if it had not been for his wife and others who held his hands with prayers to God and God in His mercy has prolonged his life.

He is planning to come to Barrow this spring by dog sled. In nearly every camp to the east there is some one as a leader of those in his community in conducting their services. And each has asked that we in Barrow remember ^{them} in our prayers and send them translated passages of scriptures occasionally if possible. Though many of the people to the eastward are not able to read the English language they can readily read the written Eskimo by sounds.

I am getting ready to move to Wainwright to take up the work there. I am getting ready to be able to leave here on coming Tuesday. I am sorry I was not able to leave earlier so I could prepare some songs for the coming Easter. Perhaps Percy has done something on that line before leaving, anyway. I am going down with half of the family with two dogteams freighting food supplies and personal belongings at the same time. Then I'll have the rest of the family at Wainwright later.

My physical ailment have showed signs ^{of coming back} repeatedly this winter but under control. The doctor here do not want to operate on me with the help he has now. He knows what my trouble is well enough but does not want to take a chance saying that it could be a complicated case as well as not. He suggested to Rev. Klerckoper that I go to Fairbanks for operation but Rev. Klerckoper suggests that the doctor in Kotzebue come up and help in the operation. What their conclusions are I do not know. It is nothing urgent anyway at present. I believe Mr. Klerckoper will keep you informed of my condition and I will too if necessary.

"May Easter Season bring you and yours the joy and the warmth of God's love and life afresh in Him."

Respectfully yours in His service,

Roy Ahmaogak
Roy Ahmaogak

April 30, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Wainwright, Alaska

Dear Roy:

I am sending this letter to you at Wainwright because I trust that by the time the letter arrives you will be established at Wainwright supplying for Percy Ipaloak during his absence. We have received your request for supplies and trust that everything will go through in fine shape.

I was glad to note in your letter that you were again physically fit and that you felt that you were able to do a complete work. That truly was good news.

I shall appreciate a letter from you telling me about your experiences and sharing with me anything about the work that you feel would be of interest. May the Lord continue to richly use you and wisely guide you through these difficult days.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

June 4, 1943.

Dr. Everett B. King,
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church
in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I have now been in charge of the Wainwright Presbyterian Mission since April 23rd. And sorry to say that I have not had time to write any letters or reports since.

When the thawing season arrives it waits for no man and then our problems of various sorts increases. At its first sign of approach my dogteam was at Barrow for a second load of our personal belongings. Since it turned warm without warning by jumps and bounds and even rained for two or three days I had to find someone to haul our ice and store it in the cold storage for the summer use. The distance is about a mile and a quarter. So I had to find a man who needed ice and had none cut so I could pay him half of what he hauled in. Luckily I found a good man for that and one problem was then solved.

Next in line comes the problem of acquiring some meat for the household. As I could not afford to buy my meat which I would prefer to do since it would be easier for me, I had to go hunting after it. Since this is the time the game is more numerous due to migration of different kinds of fowl and sea animals I managed to solve that problem. And this had to be done secondary to my regular church work. Although some people suggest that I go camping down the coast like Percy does each spring and leave the place I do not feel justified in doing this as I do not feel the duty away from the church work surpass the work whereunto I was called, namely the missionary work. The Lord has and will continue to supply my material needs as well as my spiritual needs if I but seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. I have proven the truth of this promise from my years of christain experience and I believe it holds good today as much as yesterday.

The thawing season also effects the manse here. During the cold winter months frost gradually forms behind the inside wall of the house all around just above the floor about three or four feet up especially Northeast and East side of the house farthest away from the stoves. And not the least of frost forming is the inside roof. When the thawing season arrives the frost from the roof drops off and at the same time starts melting and tub full after tub full of ice has to be carried out. But since we cannot get at the frost between the walls it has to melt into water and then we have to keep mopping the floor every little while for three or four days until it all melts and runs out. At the same time the walls which is only celotex is saturated with water from floor level and four feet up in some places. I have known this to be the fact the two springs I have stayed here. I am sure this is the case every year which in turn will ruin the house unless something is done to stop it. The summer is the only time to do something to stop this. It will have to involve the Board in the expense of labor and material but it is an essential problem needing our immediate attention since it has gone this far. The way to overcome this difficulty would be to ~~ceil~~

the celotex with water proof glued plywood and bank the outside wall with sod at least 3 feet high. I suppose it is too late now to ship the material which will probably be 10 pieces of 4x14 and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick of plywood, including 10 pounds of 10d finishing nails. But the sod is something we have and is free if the Board is willing to meet the expense of the labor. Three men at thirty five cents an hour for a week at the most will have done the work I am sure. If you decide to let this go through you could send me your O. K. by wire but if I do not hear from you in connection with this I will consider the suggestion vetoed. I would also recommend 4 storm windows $34\frac{1}{2}' \times 53\frac{1}{2}'$ outside to outside of sash. If what I suggest is carried out it will not only help to preserve the building but it will also mean the saving of coal in the long run. The reason for forming of frost behind the wall is that the heat from the inside is not sufficient to overcome the cold air coming from the outside and that makes for uneven temperature which makes for dampness. If what two things I suggest be done about the house we will have overcome the biggest part of our yearly difficulty. I am aware of the fact that financial burden of our Board is heavier in every way due to war but even to have reported our problems somewhat relieves us of the responsibility resting on our shoulders. The linoleum floor would be greatly appreciated also. It would greatly ease the scrubbing of floors which is almost part of daily work due to muddy yard around the manse. I never can understand why the spot where this manse is built was selected. There are puddles of water all around the house and a good size pond whose nearest tip is six feet away from our front door and runs parallel with the house and about 200 yards wide. A muddy yard you can be sure of. We can make some ditches I suppose and drain most of the water out but we lack tools to do the work with. Not even a shovel here to be found to be exact. We hold Primary Department of our Sunday School in the manse and the front room is filled to capacity. Our newly scrub floor on Saturday then is done for on Sunday morning when the eager children track in the mud and the scrubbing has to be repeated Monday. How happy we would be to see linoleum floor send for our floors some of these days.

Then comes the problem of securing coal for the church and the manse. I have had no information of what Percy has done about the coal for the coming year. I see he has 100 sacks of Utah coal in the 1943 & '44 requisition but another 200 or more sacks of Wainwright coal is needed I am sure to complete the year. Whatever has been the quota of fuel for this place per year is what I would like to know and whether it has been arranged for already for the coming year. If not, shall I make arrangements to fill the year's quota with Wainwright coal and how many?

Well, I think this will be enough of my "wishes and would like to haves", for this time and I hope I have not gone over the bounds of reason. With kindest regards to you I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Roy Ahmaogak

Roy Ahmaogak

June 17, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Roy Ahmaogak
Wainwright, Alaska

Dear Roy:

I have your letter dated April 18, and acknowledge it with a great deal of appreciation. I thank you first of all for your Easter greetings. It is always wholesome and encouraging to receive such greetings from a fellow worker.

I was deeply interested in your account of the missionary trip to the East coast as far as Demarkation Point. That must have been a real experience for you in the airplane. I know full well how you felt when you first circled in the air. You were wise in closing your eyes in order to let your stomach get right side up. I suppose though that the trouble did not last very long and that you enjoyed the flying trip.

I have not heard any definite word about your trip to Wainwright, but I am supposing that you are now there and are serving the people in the church there. I shall appreciate your writing me in full about the work and about your services, as soon as it is possible for you to do so.

May the Great Shepherd continue to lead you and restore your soul.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

ESKIMO PREACHER

By EDITH J. AGNEW

Born in a house of whalebone and sod, content to hunt for furs in the ice-fields and raise his eleven children under the midnight sun, Roy Ahmaogak tried to escape the job he knew was his. When he finally accepted, he created an alphabet for his own language in order to translate the Bible.

THE CAREER of Eskimo Roy Ahmaogak, who started as a hunter and is now a Presbyterian minister, is linked in my mind with the poem, *Hound of Heaven*, by Francis Thompson. The poem describes the writer's vain attempts to evade the call of Christ:

"I fled Him, down the nights and
down the days;
I fled Him down the arches of the
years;
I fled Him down the labyrinthine
ways
Of my own mind, . . .
From those strong feet that followed,
followed after."*

For Ahmaogak hadn't wanted to be a minister. He didn't want to spend his time and energy translating the Bible into the unwritten Inupiat dialect. It was too hard.

Oh, he knew the work ought to be done. People were continually suggesting it to him—Dr. Greist and Mr. Klerekoper, the missionaries; that couple he met on a trip from Barrow to Demarkation Point, who



begged for a few chapters of the Bible in their own language; Eskimo friends at Barrow; his wife; and that inner voice, insistent.

He had shut his ears and his mind to them all. No, he would do his Christian duty by interpreting for missionaries. He would quiet his conscience by translating a few hymns now and then. But at heart he was a hunter and always would be. And he always would have been, except for that other inescapable Hunter of men.

When he was born at Barrow (Ootkeavik), Alaska, in 1898 (he was never certain of the exact date), the village was altogether Eskimo except for the missionaries.

His father was, like all the neighboring men, a hunter and fisherman. His mother was homekeeper and a midwife.

The life of the family was made up of the simple essentials of getting food, keeping warm, bringing up babies, and sharing in neighborhood episodes of births, marriages, deaths, privations in hard years, and celebrations over successful hunting in good years.

These were the things Roy knew as a boy: his own house, built of whalebone and sod, banked with blocks of ice in winter against the cold winds; the sand bar that pointed like a finger out into the ocean, with a tiny settlement at the tip of it known as Point Barrow; the ocean itself, where great cakes of ice cracked off from the ice shelf at the beginning of summer and piled up in ridges like mountains; animals of the far North—walruses, seals and ogruks (fat, bearded cousins to the seal), whales and bears;

*From THE HOUND OF HEAVEN, by Francis Thompson. Used by permission of Charles Scribner's Sons.



In order to reach his people, Roy Ahmaogak must sometimes pile his equipment on a sled and travel by dog-team over ice-fields.

fish; the tundra stretching inland, flat and treeless and spotted with little lakes. In summer the land was bright with grass and wild flowers and berries; in winter it was bleak and white, and dogs trekked across it pulling sleds. Around the horizon the sun swung in a slow circle, shining at midnight to produce continuous daylight in the summer, disappearing entirely for continuous darkness in the winter. Winter moonlight was brilliant over the gleaming snow, and at times the northern lights flicked over the sky in flaming tongues of color. Once a year the U. S. revenue cutter *Bear* arrived with mail and supplies, carrying away furs, skins, and the ivory of walrus teeth. Once in a while whalers and seamen were wrecked on the Point, and had to be brought in to the mission doctor. Those were the things that Roy remembered as a natural part of his life.

At a government school with mission teachers, he learned a little English, studied numbers, geography, and history. At Sunday school he learned strange stories from the Bible. He never missed going to church with his father and mother, who had been among the first Christian converts in this northernmost mission in America.

His schooling was spasmodic because it was frequently interrupted by hunting and fishing trips. Sometimes Roy went with his father far into the interior with the dogs and the sleds, trapping mink and marten along the streams, coming back tired, but satisfied, with piles of valuable furs.

The school at Barrow afforded only an elementary education. Roy, finishing the eighth grade, began to act as assistant to the school teacher. From 1913 until 1925 he taught in the school. He married one of the teachers, who died shortly after their marriage. In 1920 he married Isabel Manuluk, his present wife, who was a Barrow girl.

A Missionary's Advice

In 1921 Dr. Henry W. Greist arrived to take charge of the mission hospital at Barrow. He had the usual struggle with the Inupiat language, and Roy made himself useful as interpreter. Roy was excellent in that capacity, for his mind was quick and his understanding of the Bible clear. He brought to his interpreting a poetic spirit.

"You, Roy," the doctor used to say to him, "could be a minister to your people in your own right. You could give them the

gospel in their own tongue. Why not take the time to study for it? You are needed, you know."

But Roy said no. He hadn't the education, and in other ways he was not fitted for that sort of work. Besides, he had his family, and it was growing fast. Already by 1927, there were four children, Alice Ahlook, Elizabeth Kilapsuk, May Atahnak, and Roy Junior. How would he feed them, if he gave up business for study? The more he thought about it, the more he wanted to be just what other Eskimo men were, a hunter and a fisherman. That and no more.

So he packed himself and his family out into the wilderness eastward. He went deliberately, turning his back on books and studies, facing freedom and plenty. At the same time, a slightly troubled conscience traveled with him. "You are running away," a voice in his heart kept saying. And he refused to listen.

Hunting was good, and so was trapping. Roy Ahmaogak amassed piles and piles of furs, now and then making a run from his camp to the village to trade them for provender. He fed his children well, and they were content; content, and a little wild, too; ignorant, except for what he and their mother could teach them.

For four years they stayed out in the wilds. Margaret Kaiyana and Ray Amekek were born there. By the end of that time the older children were in real need of schooling. For their sakes, he would have to go back to Barrow. They needed the discipline of mastering lessons assigned, of deciphering English books. They needed the companionship of other boys and girls. Yes, he had to go back.

Dr. Greist was glad to see him, and before he knew it he was interpreter again, and active in the church. But when the doctor urged him to do extra studying in history books and books on Christian doctrine, he studied only a little. "Not too much," his mind kept telling him. "Not too much, lest I go too far."

When the Rev. and Mrs. Frederick Klerekoper arrived in Barrow in 1936, they, too, commandeered his services. Roy felt really sorry for Mr. Klerekoper. He was so in earnest about learning the language and so discouraged because he could not see it in written form. There was no grammar, no primer, no dictionary. The two of them began to work on a dictionary, slowly, for neither of them knew how to set the Inupiat sounds to letters. As best they could, they made a list of about two thousand words. Though not completely satisfying, it was a help.

When the time came for the Klerekoper's furlough in 1939-40, Mr. Klerekoper asked Mr. Ahmaogak to take charge of the church while he was away in the States. As an elder, he could be licensed to preach, if he would.

"You can do it," Mr. Klerekoper told him. "I'll help you prepare for it. Why don't you try?"

The Hound of Heaven was very close then.

"For, though I knew His Love
Who followed,
Yet was I sore adread
Lest, having Him, I must have
naught beside."

That was the trouble. If once he consented to preach the gospel for a whole year, would he be able to escape from it afterwards?

Knowing the danger, he tried one last time to avoid it, setting off on a hunting trip alone, except for his dogs, to fight out the matter with his conscience. He was a dot in the wide Arctic—small, very small. Yet the struggle within him was immense. He remembered the other time when he had run away, staying for years. That time he could postpone the issue. This time he had to say yes or no, within days instead of years. No postponement now. No shilly-shallying. Yes—or no?

What voice came to him out in the wide spaces who knows except the man himself? He cannot tell it clearly, but



Ordination by members of Yukon Presbytery meant that Ahmaogak could set to work at last on the work among his people for which he went to U. S. to prepare.



A year's study at Bloomfield Seminary helped Ahmaogak prepare for his mission. Here he got help of experts on his alphabet, primer and translation of the Bible.



Children at Eskimo school (*above*) do their work in English. Roy Ahmaogak is helping them to learn to read in their own language too, for which—in order to express Biblical ideas—he invented new words as strange as those on blackboard at right.

he has acted his answer. He has not been disobedient to his vision. Right-about-face for the dog-team. Right-about-face for the man. The direction decided upon, then a straight course—no swerving ever afterwards.

He spent the year preaching for Fred Klerekoper. Then he took a church at Wainwright, ninety miles down the coast, where the natives spoke his own Inupiat dialect.

In 1946 opportunity came for Ahmaogak to attend the General Assembly at Atlantic City. An added offer was made through Dr. J. Earl Jackman, Secretary for Alaska of the Board of National Missions, to spend a year in the States in special study. He decided to accept the offer, even though he was reluctant to leave his family for so long a time. His children now numbered eleven and most of them were still at home.

With the help of the American Bible Society, special courses at Bloomfield Seminary, New Jersey, and friends at the Board of National Missions, he was able, while preparing for ordination, to complete an Inupiat alphabet, produce an illustrated primer, and translate the books of Mark, Romans, and parts of John's gospel.

New Ideas

It was a hard task. In order to express sounds consistently, diacritical marks had to be contrived. In order to express ideas foreign to the Arctic, new words had to be invented. A camel has to be called a "big hump animal," honey was "that which bees eat," and grasshoppers were "insects that jump." Part of Mr. Ahmaogak's education was a trip to the zoo to inspect actual sheep, lions, and camels.

The man who could keep an unwavering course over hundred-mile stretches of tundra even in a blizzard found city life fearfully confusing. Paved streets and roads, "hard trails," he admitted were good for cars, but he wished the cars would not go so wildly in so many directions. Traffic noises, surging crowds, trains, buses, elevators—all were parts of a strange new civilization into which he seemed to be plunged too suddenly. He yearned for the peace of the Arctic.

Back Home

Back in the North again, however, at the end of the year, he saw some value in the gadgets of civilization. He found travel by dogsled extremely slow. He regretted having to spend so much time cutting ice by hand for his water supply. He longed for city electricity instead of

the small home plant that required so much tinkering to keep in order.

However, these were minor matters. The great matter was that he was with his family again, and that he was a real minister. He was ordained at Barrow in June, 1947, when members of the Yukon Presbytery flew up for the laying on of hands. A minister at last, at forty-nine, he took full charge of the church at Wainwright. He began teaching his alphabet and primer up and down the coast, and continued his translation of the Bible.

As he returned to the Arctic Coast he felt his life was just beginning because he had in his possession the word of God in the language of his people and the authority of his church for a full ministry to his people. From week to week and year to year he hunts now for the souls of his people to bring them to Christ, their Lord and Savior.

Reprinted from *Presbyterian Life*, December 9, 1950

OTHER MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHIES

- Number 1. The Little Shepherd of Big Lick (*The Rev. Eugene Smathers*)
- Number 2. Missionary to the Cowboys (*The Rev. Ralph Hall*)
- Number 3. Dr. Big (*Dr. Clarence G. Salsbury*)
- Number 4. Poncel of Tucson (*Mr. Joseph A. Poncel*)
- Number 5. Soft Coal Preacher (*The Rev. Richard C. Smith*)
- Number 6. Missions Is Folks (*Dr. Edward A. Odell*)
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Nov 15 1951
Wycliffe Translators
Uligmik Presbyterian Church
AT
WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

REV. ROY AHMADGAK
MISSIONARY-PASTOR

DAVID PANIK
ORGANIST

NOV 15 1951

WALTER NAYAKIK
CLERK OF SESSION

31 October 1957

Mr. Donald H. Webster, Member
Wycliffe Bible Translators
11 Crestwood Avenue,
Cote St. Luc.,
Montreal 28, Que.

Dear Brother in the Lord:

Attached

It was a surprise to receive your letter, a letter from somewhere else than good old U.S.A. Isn't it wonderful to know each other in the Lord even without having met in person? Indeed, it is wonderful to know that the Kingdom of our Lord knows no boundery regardless of creed or color. It always thrills my heart to realize that somewhere someone is thinking of us and praying in our behalf in the service we strive to do for our common Lord and Saviour. I have thanked Him again and again for the opportunity he gave me to have had a year of study in the States, three months in the Linguistic School of the Wycliffe Bible Translators when they held it at Norman, Oklahoma, and the rest of the year at Bloomfield Seminary in N.J. That has helped me a lot in my present work here, under the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. But I am sorry that my translation work has been slow and somewhat crowded out of my work as Missionary-Pastor. May I tell you that I sincerely appreciate your offer of assistance with the translation of the Bible into our Eskimo language. It isn't so much help in the translation work itself that I need help, but in the total program of the Church here, some of which I could be relieved and carried on by an assistant. This would no doubt give me time for my translation work. I have discussed this problem of time for translation work with our S.S. teachers and church Officers but so far we have come to no decision. My conviction is that, the translation of the Bible is a must, but we are failing, at least for time being, I hope. Many illiterates have found joy and comfort in learning to read from my translation of the Gospel of Mark, and Epistle to the Romans. I can never forget a remark made by a young person when she learned to read the translations. She said, "Though I could see the Bible with my eyes, I was like a blind person, because when I opened it I could not read a word of English. When the translation came out I was like a blind receiving his sight, because I learned to read the Word of God in my own tongue". Well, so much for that and now for the answers of your questions. 1. Is there a home available at Wainwright? 2. If so, is it furnished? Ans. There is an apartment room in the Alaska Native Service school building here which have been rented at times but not for a whole year at 3.00 a day and it is furnished with heat and light and everything needed in a house. But I am not sure if it can be rented for a year through. I talked with the local teacher here but he didn't know as he will have to contact their headquarters in Juneau. There is also a single room house downstairs with upstairs for additional room owned by an individual which probably could be rented but it is not furnished. I have not inquired whether he would want to rent it, and/or what he would ask for the rent. 3. Could we buy the necessities of furniture in Alaska at a cheaper price than buying here, and shipping? Anything you buy in Alaska is twice and more in some things than what you would pay in the States.

Let us seek God's will regarding this matter thro' prayer.

4. What type of fuel do you use for heating your home and type of heating equipment? We at the manse use local coal and haul it ourselves with dogteam, tractor and Station wagon and by boat in summer. There is never enough coal supply for sale in the village. Each individual home hauls his own coal free of charge when he goes out to mine it himself or sack it up when it washes up on the beach following a storm. We use coal heaters and wood & coal ranges for cooking. The Gov't school uses stove oil altogether which is shipped from the States. We certainly wish we could do that too but the Church cannot afford it, I guess. 5. How cold does the temperature gets at Wainwright? Most always it is several degrees below 0° and it gets as low as 40 and 45 degrees below zero during January and February, plus full blast of wind and snow with no trees to break the force when storm comes. I would advise you to buy your winter clothing out there, army type winter clothes. You can get them from Army Surplus stores. No native clothing is obtainable for immediate use, but could be made by women here as time goes. 6. How is the mail delivery? Our mail service is three times a week by plane from Barrow. 7. Is an electric plant advisable and operational at Wainwright? Yes. We have one at the Mission, the school have theirs, and three other individuals own theirs. 8. Have you any material re: your language that we may have and begin to study? I have nothing other than the Eskimo Primer which meant primarily to teach how to read the Eskimo writing which is not too helpful in studying the Eskimo language. But I can recommend a booklet which may prove more helpful to you, titled, "Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition - 1913 - '18, Part B, by Mr. D. Jenness, whom I know personally. You can purchase this pamphlet from National Museum of Canada, Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources, Ottawa, Canada for 25¢ cents apiece. Mr. Jenness has done remarkably well with our Arctic dialect although I have found a few errors. I hope that I have answered your questions satisfactory to you.

I feel that I should share our correspondence with our Headquarters in New York, with The Rev. J. Earl Jackman, D.D., Secretary for Dept. of Work in Alaska, New York, N. Y. and if you have further questions to ask about Alaska and the work you can write direct to his office at 156 fifth Avenue. I am sure he will have the answers for you.

It was good to note in your letter that you and your wife have both given your lives completely to the Lord for His service anywhere in the world, and that it is your belief that you should begin by coming to our area. It is my prayer that the Lord will bless you, and direct you in the work where he needs you most. I am sure He has a place for you where you can render your services for Him and to His glory. God bless you.

Sincerely in His Service,

To Ahmaogak
Roy Ahmaogak

cc: Dr. Jackman
The Rev. B. Cleworth

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

AÉROGRAMME
AIR MAIL PAR AVION



Rev. Roy Ahmaogak,

Wainwright,

Alaska.

FIRST FOLD HERE — PLIEZ D'ABORD ICI

SECOND FOLD HERE — PLIEZ ENSUITE ICI
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

D. H. WEBSTER?

41 Crestwood Ave.,

Montreal 28, que.,

Canada.

NO ENCLOSURE PERMITTED — NE RIEN INSÉRER

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

NOV 15 1957,
41 Crestwood Ave.
Cote St. Luc.,
Montreal 28, Que.
Oct. 5/57.

Dear Brother Ahmaogak,

It gives me great pleasure to send this to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a Junior member with Wycliffe Bible Translators, and anticipating working ~~among~~ with you on your translation. At present, I am assisting in my home church here in Montreal, and waiting for the advance into Alaska. However, during this time, which includes itinerating also, I would like ~~to~~ to accumulate the essentials to take north with us. I'll list my requests as questions, and would appreciate answers to each; however, if you have other information which you think I would be interested in, then include ~~same~~ in your reply.

- 1) Is there a home available at Wainwright?
- 2) If so, is it furnished?
- 3) Could we buy the necessities of furniture in Alaska at a cheaper price than buying here, and shipping? TYPE OF HEATING
- 4) What type of fuel do you use for heating your home? and equipment.
- 5) How cold does the temp. get at Wainwright? Would you advise buying clothing (outer) here, or use your native clothing?
- 6) How is the mail delivery at Wainwright?
- 7) Is an electric plant advisable and operational at Wainwright?
- 8) Have you any material re: your language that we may have and begin to study;

Possibly I should tell you a little about myself. I am 27 years of age, and was married to another Wycliffite 3 weeks ago. My wife graduated from Bible Inst. with a Christian Ed. major this Spring, and I from an inter-denominational Seminary. She is a graduate nurse also. Do you suppose she will have any opportunities for her nursing. I also fly, and wonder if this will be of any service to the area. We have both studied with S.I.L. for two summers now, completing our training this past summer.

I have read a little literature about you and am very interested to know more about you, about your work at Wainwright, and about what you would like me to do in the way of Translation assistance, etc.

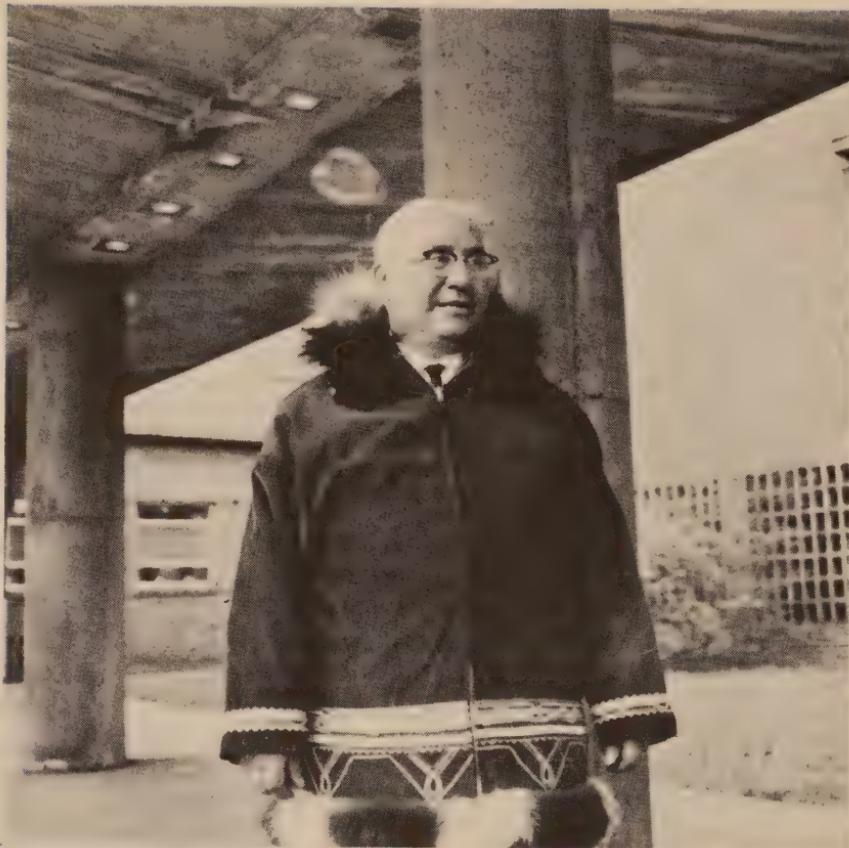
My wife and I have both given our lives completely to the Lord for service anywhere in the world, and we believe that we should begin by going ~~to~~ to your area. We are looking to Him for our needs and opportunities, and know that all will be worked out in His time and way.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am ~~xx~~

Sincerely in His Service,

Don Webster

Donald H. Webster.



Commissioner Roy Ahmaogak from Yukon Presbytery doubles as pastor of the church at Wainwright, Alaska, and as a translator, putting the Bible into Inupiat, the Eskimo dialect used at Barrow and other far-northern villages. This is Mr. Ahmaogak's second stint at a General Assembly. An elder commissioner in 1946, he stayed on at Bloomfield Seminary in New Jersey to study for ordination. With the help of the American Bible Society, he also worked on an alphabet in Inupiat, wrote a primer, and translated portions of the New Testament. He found trips to the zoo helpful—the camel (big hump animal) and grasshoppers (insects that jump) were alien to his experience.

resolve the complex problems of Latin America by external military means and particularly urges our government to resist pressures toward unilateral military intervention.

THE PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZED CRIME

The 173rd General Assembly

- Commends the committees of Congress, the Department of Justice, and other agencies of government for their determination to take vigorous action against organized crime;
- Urges that appropriate recognition be made of the courage and personal sacrifices of public officials who, often under considerable strain; remain honest, faithful, and dedicated servants of their communities; that public office, including law enforcement, be accorded higher recognition; and that salaries be commensurate with responsibilities;
- Calls upon all citizens to exercise their full voting rights in the interest of honest government and to expose corruption wherever it is found;
- Reminds church members that engaging in organized gambling directly contributes to the various forms of syndicated crime;
- Urges that new and imaginative collateral efforts be taken by all branches of government including law-enforcement agencies so that there may be efficient, concerted action against crime in all of its manifestations including organized crime;
- Calls upon churches to study the structure and mode of action of organized crime and its threat to society with special emphasis on the hidden forms of crime made possible by the abuse of

youth and in preventing and treating delinquent behavior, and to make full use of the guidance provided by the pronouncements of the General Assembly;

- Calls upon the churches and judicatories to evaluate public education including the field of special education and the adequacy of school curricula and approaches to the needs of youth;
- Calls upon churches and judicatories to evaluate present opportunities for meaningful employment of young people in our society;
- Calls upon churches to cooperate with youth-serving agencies in their communities and in other ways to work for the prevention of juvenile delinquency;
- Calls upon the churches and judicatories to study, evaluate, and take appropriate action to improve laws, procedures, and agencies concerned with apprehending, adjudicating, and rehabilitating juvenile offenders with particular reference to enforcement, court and probationary procedures, diagnostic and treatment centers, training schools, and correctional institutions;
- Calls to the attention of churches and judicatories the importance of compassion and concern for young people in trouble, particularly those who have been released from correctional institutions, and the development of measures which will gain community acceptance, employment, and re-establishment of supporting family relationships.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGING

The 173rd General Assembly

- Calls upon the boards and admini-

AUG 19 1965
AHMAOGAK

the Verstovian

SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE + SHELDON JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

VOL. XLVII No. 2

SITKA, ALASKA

JULY 1965



ROY AHMAOGAK, NATIVE ESKIMO PASTOR

This issue of the VERSTOVIAN features Roy Ahmaogak of Wainwright, a dedicated spiritual leader of the Eskimo people in the far north country of Alaska. Pastor of the Presbyterian church at Wainwright, Alaska, above the Arctic Circle, and only 1300 miles from the North Pole, Roy Ahmaogak was born in a house made of whalebone and sod in Barrow. His parents, among the first converts of early Presbyterian missionaries, wanted him to learn to read. Because he was an unusually apt pupil, his teachers took a great interest in him and enlarged the scope of his knowledge by directing his reading to include history and geography as well as the Bible. Soon he became an interpreter and assisted in teaching. Today he ministers to his people in Wainwright, traveling to the far reaches of his parish by dog sled. Roy Ahmaogak has completed an alphabet in Inupiat, produced an illustrated primer and translated the books of Mark and Romans and part of John. The sermons reproduced in this issue were delivered at the meeting of Yukon Presbytery on April 22, 1965. They speak for themselves in testimony of his love and devotion to his Lord and his task.

Sermons by Ahmaogak The First Sermon

BY THE GRACE OF GOD
Ephesians 3:7-9, 11, 12

In studying Paul's life and his experiences before and after he came face to face with our Lord and surrendered, one cannot help but look back on his own experience and call to the ministry, especially as he nears the end of it, and ask himself: Where did this grace of God begin to work in my own life? How did it come about that I find myself in Paul's shoes? Let us have Paul tell us when this grace of God took hold of him. Some people like to use the term, "By God's Providence I am in the ministry, or I'm a Christian." To me, this puts God at a distance, as if we said, "God is in heaven and from His throne he overruled my life and put me where I find myself." I prefer the word, "grace" rather than providence, because I believe God works through His grace, or by His grace, starting in man's own heart and spirit. He, by His own Holy Spirit begins His work of grace in the heart of man. Paul tells us that it is everyone's privilege to receive this grace of God. In Ephesians 4:7 Paul says: "But unto everyone of us is grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

Where did this grace of God begin in Paul's life? Did it begin to work only after Paul surrendered his life to Christ by believing in Him? Paul believes that God was at work for Paul's future and His own glory even before Paul was born. In Gal. 1:15, 16, Paul's statement reads: But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, to reveal his son in me, that I might preach among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." The Living Letters of The Paraphrased Epistles translate these two verses this way: "But then something happened for even before I was born God had chosen me to be His, and called me . . . what kindness and grace . .

Summer Workers



Dr. Erna Gunther of the University of Washington discusses the Sheldon Jackson Museum with Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rogers and Rev. and Mrs. Richard Gisbon.

This is the summer for workers. The campus is alive with activity.

The recreation group of eight is conducting activities for 220 young people of the greater Sitka area. Six are working in the office, museum and in the dormitories. In addition sixty young people have flooded the campus from California and Oregon to paint and repair the buildings.

Added to this is a magnificent array of talent of our own students and six construction men getting ready to erect the new dormitory for the college and the student union.

Recreational assistants are Margaret Holmberg, Karen Haykey, Rebecca Hassman, "Kit" Panofsky and Gloria and Allan Stocks. They are being aided by staff member "Pat" Regan and junior college student Ron Skinner. Other volunteers are Mary Shields at the Museum, Magdalene Schubert in the office, Russell Goodman and his wife in Frazer Hall, kitchen and maintenance work, Audrey Lietman in the kitchen and Sybil Lawlis in the role of supervisor for North Pacific Hall.

Of the student work groups, Rev. Michael Anderson, of Fremont Presbyterian Church, brought a group for travel and work. This group was followed by a work group from the Synod of Oregon led by Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rogers, Jr. of Lostine, Oregon, and Rev. and Mrs. Richard Gibson of Portland.

The Oregon group arrived in time to paint the trim on the buildings and do a tremendous dress up job on the campus. Both groups toured the area and had an opportunity to absorb the history and culture of the area.

SERMONS BY AHMAOGAK - from p. 1
to put His son within me so that I could go to the gentiles and show them Good news about Jesus. When all this happened to me I didn't go and talk it over with anyone else."

Yet when Paul talks about this, "the Grace of God" which he had experienced and believed, he regarded himself the least of all the Apostles, the least of all God's servants. In I Cor. 15:9, 10 Paul says, "For I am the least of all the Apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the Grace of God I am what I am; and His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I but the grace of God which was with me."

I hope you will bear these scripture verses in mind as I try to relate my own experiences in life and beliefs in the light of Paul's testimony. What do we mean by God's grace anyway? This is one of our big problems in translating the scriptures into Inupiat language. In the Inupiat language grace is changed to great mercy of God, but then we go on to explain that this great mercy and favor of God is unmerited or undeserved.

Paul was always careful not to be boastful about his own accomplishments and status but of that which God's grace was able to do for him and through him. He much rather boast about "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one; Thrice was I beaten with rods; once was I stoned; thrice I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeying often in perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness. If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities." We can add, "all for the sake of Christ and His grace by which he has appointed me to serve for His honor and glory."

If there ever was a man, other than Christ Himself, in the New Testament worth the study of any pastor, minister or missionary, I believe it is the story of Paul. Of all the apostles of his time, he had the hardest soil to plant or sow the word of God, plus the severest trials, difficulties and discouragements that he encountered during his ministry. His testimonies regarding what God's grace did for him in storm and to page 3

SERMONS BY AHMAOGAK - from p. 2
 calm, spiritually speaking, is most inspiring of what God through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ can do for each of his servants.

The Second Sermon

Experiences under the Grace of God
 I Tim. 1:12-17

This morning I am taking you back to the year 1898. How many of you were here then? By God's grace, I came into being at Barrow in that year. The good news of the Gospel was still much of a mystery among our parents and the superstitious beliefs were still prevailing influences in their lives. The story of the Gospel was only about eight years in existence around Barrow and Wainwright. No doubt the language barrier was the greatest problem for the missionaries and the natives. Most of those eight years were spent by the missionaries in teaching English to the children and in turn learning their native Inupiat language.

Because of the superstitious beliefs prevailing at that time, I was born in a snow igloo. Our Lord was born in a stable, but perhaps that was a more comfortable place

WHITWORTH GRANTS DEGREE

Rev. Ahmaogak of Wainwright was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Whitworth College on June 24 at a concluding service celebrating the college's 75th Anniversary.



Pat Regan, Margaret Holmberg, Kit Panofsky and Karen Hayley give an interpretation of the One Hundred Psalm. The scene depicts "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving."

MEMORIAL TRUST

A Memorial Trust Fund for scholarship assistance has been formed in memory of George Robert Bell. This has been instituted by his daughter, Mrs. Laurin Juul Kaasa of Raleigh, North Carolina.

in which to be born. Because of these superstitious beliefs a woman became unclean at the time of giving birth and had to be taken out of the house and put out into a snow igloo to deliver, nor was she allowed any assistance because anyone who associated with her or touched her was also considered unclean and subject to some mysterious tragedy or severe sickness, accompanied with death. The only way the husband and friends could find out if all was well was to call from outside when they brought food and water to her. This was shoved in through an opening in the front within reach of the mother. After three or four days she was considered safe to be taken back into their living quarters with the rest of the family.

Truly by God's grace, I survived those first three or four days of my life in a snow igloo. Believe it or not, I feel I can say like Paul in Gal. 1:15, 16: "It pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, to reveal His son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen."

I have heard my mother tell that I had nine brothers and sisters, all older than I, but all died in their early years. By my mother's second marriage to one of the prominent citizens of the village of Barrow, a good whaler and good hunter, I was granted four step brothers and sisters, only one younger than I. But, all died of TB. In those days many families had TB in the home and we had it too. It was one of the major diseases among many of our people. I lost my first wife because of TB. Her two brothers, good Christian young men, also died of TB.

As I look and ponder upon those times and years, and my constant association with those who had TB, I marvel that my health was not affected. Isn't it by the grace of God that I am still on my two feet with no sign of TB?

My school days from about the age of 7 on, until I finished, were about the hardest years of my life. My parents were determined that I should get what education I could from our local government school. Their purpose for my education was more self concerned than perhaps what the Lord had planned for my future. My parents were not satisfied with the way some of the white traders and whalers treated them when they came north in sailing ships to hunt bowhead whales and trade with the natives. My parents' concern was that I get what education I could in order to be able to help

them in trading with the white traders. Every fall as soon as the freeze up came, my parents took off for polar bear hunting, trapping and fishing and left me to the mercy of our relatives. The family I lived with were late sleepers and I had to get up while they were still asleep in order to get to school on time. There was never a fire in the stove during the night when all went to bed. The fuel was sod and blubber. To keep the fire going it had to be fed a chunk of blubber every 15 or 20 minutes. Every morning I would chop an inch or two of ice in the tea kettle to get enough water to drink and wash. Everything in the house froze during the night throughout the winter. This was the way of life for me during my school days. Finally I made my grades in the local school and was appointed an assistant teacher later.

How different life is today in Barrow with natural gas and thermostats and furnaces and gas ranges with 24 hour electricity for light and other conveniences around the home!

In early March, 1920, I went to Wainwright from Barrow with a team of 11 dogs just to check if our marriage engagement was still valid. Isabel and her folks had moved to Wainwright early in the fall that year. While I was there, Arch-Deacon Hoar of Point Hope Episcopal Church arrived in Wainwright on his way to Barrow. On the 19th of March, 1920, Isabel and I were married along with several others who were old enough to be our parents, who had lived together as man and wife in the Eskimo fashion, but had never been given a Christian marriage. About a month later, Isabel and I left Barrow with a young man as helper. We went eastward toward Barter Island and Demarcation Point to take the Census for Uncle Sam. This was our honeymoon trip, never to be forgotten, perhaps the first honeymoon trip among our people. Even now our sons and daughters don't often go on honeymoon trips. Families were scattered all along the coast from Colville river to Demarcation Point. Most of these families were originally from Barrow. One thing I noticed was that most of them were hungry for the word of God. Having to stop at every camp to take their census, I was also privileged to read to them from the Bible. This was perhaps one of my starting points in wanting to share the word of God with those who were less fortunate than I in reading it in English. By the grace of God a desire to put even some of the word of God into Inupiat dialect was planted.

It was a proud and happy day when we reached Demarcation Point when I stood with one foot in Canada and the other in Alaska on the marker which marked the dividing line.

Three years later in June, 1923, our medical missionary, Dr. Henry W. Griest and I left for Wainwright to visit the members of Barrow Presbyterian Church and to hold a week of Spiritual Emphasis. This was one of our quarterly visits to Waingright during the winter months. All travel was by dog team. After a week of Spiritual Emphasis the Olgonik (Wain) Presbyterian Church was organized by the order given to us by the Presbytery of Yukon with about 29 charter members on June 24, 1923. Who at that time knew or even thought that years later I would become its pastor? Verse 14 of our scripture lesson reads "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love is in Christ Jesus." And verse 12, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

Thomas a' Kempis is quoted as saying, "A humble knowledge of thyself is a surer road to God than a deep searching of the sciences."

BUSINESS ED. IS BUSINESS

by Odessa Gray

Business Education has often been called a stepchild of education, and for that reason has often been neglected.

At Sheldon Jackson High School we offer commercial courses in general business, typing I and II, shorthand, and secretarial practices.

We do not offer a major in commercial education, but we believe that these courses will give the students a good background knowledge of the business world in which we live.

A student may take four semesters of typing, two semesters of general business, plus one semester of office practice which is combined with typing II the second semester.

For those students going on to college, a course in business education will help them in their assignments, or, say a student following the liberal art program in college, may get a part-time job supporting himself, if he finds it necessary, with a skill learned in high school.

The majority of office workers get their entire training in high school.